

2016-2017 Season Dates and Limits Information

Small Game	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (Statewide)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 ^a
	Cock Pheasant	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017 (North) Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017 (South)		2	6 ^a
	Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 ^a
	Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20 ^a
	Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and Dec. 1 - 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	5	10 ^a
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017 Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and Dec. 1 - 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Sunrise to sunset	No Limit		

Deer & Turkey	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
	Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)	Nov. 18 - 20; Dec. 1 - 4, 2016	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit ^f
	Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 9 - 11, 2016 (also allowed Dec. 1 - 4)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit ^f
	Special CWD Deer Season	Dec. 29, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017 and Jan. 13 - 15, 2017		One deer per valid deer permit ^g
	Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)			One antlerless deer per permit
	Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 17, Nov. 21 - Nov. 30, and Dec. 5, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017		One deer per archery permit ^f
	Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017		One deer
	Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 8 - 10, 2016 and Nov. 18 - 20, 2016		
	Youth Turkey Season (1 permit per year)	March 25 - 26, 2017 (South) April 1 - 2, 2017 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits
	Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 3 - May 4, 2017 ^b (South) April 10 - May 11, 2017 ^b (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 22 - 30, 2016	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2	
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017, except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2	

Migratory Game Birds & Waterfowl	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	Dove ^c	Sept. 1 - Nov. 14, 2016; Dec. 26, 2016 - Jan. 9, 2017	Sunrise to sunset	15 ^c	45 ^c
	Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11, 2016		25	75
	Common Snipe	Sept. 3 - Dec. 18, 2016		8	24
	Woodcock	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28, 2016		3	9
	Crow	Oct. 28, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	
	Teal	Sept. 3 - 18, 2016 (All Zones)	Sunrise to sunset	6	18
	Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - 15, 2016	(North and Central)	5	15
			(So. Central and South)	2	6
	Youth (see Special Regulations)	Oct. 8 - 9, 2016 (North) Oct. 15 - 16, 2016 (Central) Nov. 5 - 6, 2016 (South Central) Nov. 12 - 13, 2016 (South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	All species open, see bag limits for each*	
	Ducks	Oct. 15 - Dec. 13, 2016 (North) Oct. 22 - Dec. 20, 2016 (Central)		6*	18*
	Mergansers	Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 9, 2017 (So. Central)		5*	15*
	Coots	Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 22, 2017 (South)		15	45
	Canada Geese	Oct. 15, 2016 - Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Oct. 22 - 30, 2016 and Nov. 12, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Central)		2	6
Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (South)					
Snow Geese (Snow/Blue and Ross' Geese)	Oct. 15, 2016 - Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Oct. 22, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central)	20		Unlimited	
Brant	Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (South)	1	3		

2016-2017 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

Waterfowl (Cont.)	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies)	Oct. 17, 2016 – Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Nov. 5, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	6
	Conservation Order Light Geese (see Special Regulations)	Jan. 13 – March 31, 2017 (North) Feb. 1 – March 31, 2017 (Central, So. Central and South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	Unlimited	Unlimited

2016 – 2017 Illinois Waterfowl Season (please refer to the Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for more regulations)

***Bag Limit – DUCKS** – Bag limits on ducks are as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 2 canvasback and not more than 1 black duck and 1 mottled duck. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three (3) times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

Special Regulations

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations

1.) Youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property where they reside. No stamps are required for youths under 16. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older, even those hunting with a Youth License, unless exempt (see page 6). Hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and coots during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.

Conservation Order Light Goose Season Regulations (Spring Snow Goose Season)

1.) Unplugged shotguns may be used. There is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun. 2.) Electronic calling devices may be used. 3.) No federal duck stamp required. 4.) Illinois duck stamp and hunting license required.

Furbearers—Hunting	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
	Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 10, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (South) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise ^d	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
	Bobcat and Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise ^d	
	Coyote and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^e	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2016 - March 15, 2017 ^e	

Furbearers—Trapping	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
	Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger and Bobcat	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 20, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - Jan. 25, 2017 (South)	For badger, 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone; for bobcat, 1 per person per season.	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
	Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30, 2016 (Statewide)	None	
	Beaver	Nov. 5, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (South)		
	River Otter	Nov. 5, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (South)	5 per person per season (statewide)	Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.
	Extended Spring Season for Mink and Muskrat	Begins at sunset on Jan. 20, 2017 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2017 (North) Begins at sunset on Jan. 25, 2017 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2017 (South)	None	No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater.

^a On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

^b South — 1st season — April 8 - 7; 2nd season — April 8 - 13; 3rd season — April 14 - 19; 4th season — April 20 - 26; 5th season — April 27 - May 4

North — 1st season — April 10 - 14; 2nd season — April 15 - 20; 3rd season — April 21 - 26; 4th season — April 27 - May 3; 5th season — May 4 - 11

^c The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

^d During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^e Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^f No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

^g Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.

Trapper Education Classes Scheduled

Carroll County, Milledgeville – Sept. 24, 2016. Call (309) 370-0866
Livingston County, Fairbury – Sept. 10, 2016. Call (815) 419-5204
Macon County Fairgrounds, Decatur – Oct. 1, 2016. Call (309) 697-5055
Phillips Park, Aurora – Oct. 2, 2016. Call (630) 851-7119
Tazewell County, Wilmor Sportsman Club – August 27, 2016. Call (309) 264-7133
Tazewell County, Hooked on Fishing Park, East Peoria – Oct. 29, 2016. Call (309) 697-5055

Trapper Education

First-time trappers, born on or after Jan. 1, 2015, are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. Additionally, any trapper regardless of age, who has not previously held a valid trapping license issued by this state or another, within the 3 years preceding application, is required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. This requirement can be met by completing an online study course at www.trappered.com, or completing a Trapper Education Class. Schedules for instructor-taught courses can be accessed by calling (800) 832-2599 Ameritech Relay (800) 526-0844 or at www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety.

Season Dates – Rules of Thumb

Many hunters need to plan vacations and hunting trips in advance of the annual distribution of the *Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations*. For such planning purposes, here are the general rules of thumb used for setting annual season dates. Although there are no guarantees that these season dates will be used in future years, this is the best information available for those who must make plans well in advance of announcements of official season dates.

Rabbit – First Saturday in November through Feb. 15.

Pheasant, Quail and Partridge –

North – First Saturday in November through Jan. 8.

South – First Saturday in November through Jan. 15.

Squirrel – Aug. 1-Feb. 15, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Woodchuck – June 1-March 31, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Deer – Archery – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer season except in Cook, DuPage, Kane [that portion east of Hwy. 47] and Lake counties).

Firearm – The Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately before Thanksgiving and the first four-day weekend (Thursday–Sunday) after Thanksgiving.

Youth Firearm Deer Season – The Saturday, Sunday, and Monday that includes the second Monday of October.

Muzzleloader – The third three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) following Thanksgiving. Hunting also allowed during the second firearm deer season.

Late Winter Antlerless Deer and Special CWD Deer – The first Thursday-Sunday after Dec. 25; and the first Friday-Sunday after Jan. 11.

Turkey – Spring Youth Turkey – The weekend nine days prior to the opening of each zone's first season.

Spring South Zone – Begins on the first Monday in April after April 2 and ends 32 days later. Lengths for each season (in days) are 5, 6, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

Spring North Zone – Same as South Zone except one week later.

Fall Gun – The nine days beginning on Saturday of the second complete two-day weekend (Saturday and Sunday) after Oct. 11.

Fall Archery – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer seasons).

Early Canada Goose – Sept. 1-15

Teal – nine or 16 days, opens on 1st or 2nd Saturday in Sept.

Rail – Opens with teal season and runs for 70 days.

Snipe – Opens with teal season and runs for 107 days.

Woodcock – 45 days beginning on the third Saturday in October.

Furbearer Hunting and Trapping – Season dates listed for the 2016-2017 season will be used as guidelines.

Crow – Oct. 28-Feb. 28.

Dove – 90 day season. Split season opens Sept. 1 and runs approximately 75 days; reopens the day after Christmas and runs the remainder of the 90 days.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

NOTE: These zone lines apply only during the September Canada Goose season. Check the 2016-17 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for zones used during the regular goose and duck seasons.

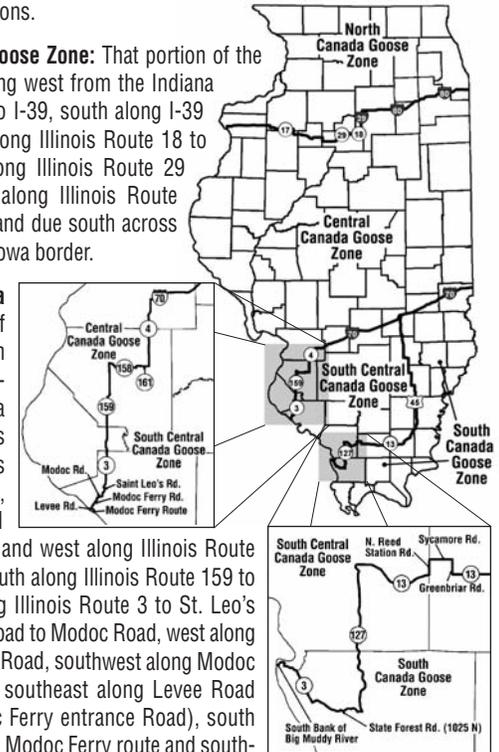
North September Canada Goose Zone: That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

Central September Canada Goose Zone: That portion of the state south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161

to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Central September Canada Goose Zone: The remainder of the state between the south border of the Central Zone and the north border of the South Zone.

South September Canada Goose Zone: That portion of the state south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.



Upland Game, Furbearers & Turkey Zones



Bobcat:

Taking bobcats is prohibited in an area bounded by Interstate 39/Route 51 on the west side and U.S. Route 36 on the south side. Bobcats may be taken in the remainder of the state.

Upland Game:

Cock pheasant, quail, Hungarian partridge: Divided by U.S. Route 36 from the Indiana state line to Springfield, Illinois Route 29 from Springfield to Pekin, and Illinois Route 9 from Pekin to Dallas City, then due west to the Mississippi River.

Furbearers:

Hunting (Raccoon, Opossum) and trapping: Divided by U.S. Route 36.

Turkey:

North Zone includes that portion of Illinois north of Crawford, Jasper, Effingham, Fayette, Bond and Madison counties. South Zone includes the remainder of the state.