



Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter

President's Message

A look at CWA's recent past and a view to the future!

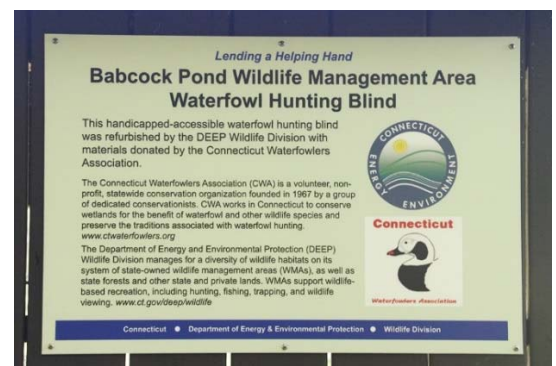
The last two years have been very active for Connecticut's waterfowler organization!

Here's a partial list of CWA's accomplishments made possible by the efforts of our Members and our Board of Directors!

- **CWA has doubled its membership! That is awesome, but we have a long way to go! Everyone who hunts waterfowl in Connecticut (about 5,000 hunters) should be a member of CWA. We have a strategy to recruit new members, primarily through utilizing some mailing lists, but also adding new benefits to members. However, our best recruiting tool is you! Please get your friends to consider joining! Remember, all funds are spent solely in Connecticut, our newsletter reports primarily on activities in Connecticut and we sponsor many other fine programs!**
- **CWA was a major driving force in defeating Senate Bill 109, which if it had passed, would have set a horrible precedent whereby any legislator could submit a bill to prohibit waterfowl hunting anywhere they pleased. CWA, working with partners like the Connecticut Conservation Advisory Board and Delta Waterfowl, led the charge that ultimately resulted in eight national organizations (including Ducks Unlimited) contacting legislators to oppose this extremely bad bill. Heartfelt thanks to all CWA members**

who took a few minutes to contact legislators! It made an important difference!

- **We have provided funding along with other partners to DEEP to conduct an important wetland restoration project at Papineau Marsh in Natchaug State Forest in Chaplin and a new project in Nehantic State Forest in Lyme where we are partnering with our friends at Delta Waterfowl.**
- **CWA made generous donations to funds set up for the families of the two waterfowl hunters who tragically perished on the last day of the duck hunting season.**
- **CWA provided materials to rehabilitate one of the only two handicapped accessible waterfowl hunting blinds in Connecticut at the Babcock WMA in Colchester. We also paid for and installed signage at the blind.**





Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter

- CWA has sponsored the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest (JDSC) in Connecticut since its inception in the late 1970's. We are the only private group that does this! It gets better! The state's Duck Stamp Advisory Board (heavily populated with CWA members) has proposed to the DEEP to use the winning painting from the JDSC as the state duck stamp beginning in 2020. This is great because the JDSC uses a curriculum in the schools that provides education to students on wetland conservation and wildlife management. We fully expect for DEEP to approve this program.



- Our website has improved dramatically! New info is added frequently. Please check it often and submit photos of hunting scenes, dog training or anything else waterfowl related! If you have any sporting items to sell, list them in our Marketplace! It's your website, use it!

Well, enough said. In a time when most sporting groups and clubs are declining, CWA is prospering! We still need all members' help and effort as we move forward in leading the way for protecting waterfowl hunter interests and wetland conservation in Connecticut!

Chet Reneson Appreciation



CWA recently recognized the generous donations that Chet Reneson has made to the organization over the years by presenting him with this fine plaque. Chet's donations of art work have resulted in generating thousands of dollars for wetland conservation in Connecticut. A Connecticut native, Chet is recognized as the finest artist of sporting art worldwide! CWA is lucky to have him as a friend and supporter!





Ducks, Etc...

*Connecticut Waterfowlers Association
Summer 2018 Newsletter*



Quinnipiac River Closure for Waterfowl Hunting

In 2011, in response to complaints about safety from local residents and legislators regarding waterfowl hunting on the Quinnipiac River between I-95 and I-91, the DEEP conducted a review of the area. The result was closing the southern 2/3s of the area, but keeping the northern 1/3 open.

Despite the partial closure, residents continued to complain about the waterfowl hunting in the portion that remained open. If concerns about safety from local residents are not addressed, the usual result is that they will seek action from their legislators. This is exactly what happened last year when SB 109 was introduced. The ultimate goal of SB 109 was to close this small area to waterfowl hunting, but this method of closing an area by legislation would have set a horrible precedent, not only for waterfowl hunting, but also for any other kind of hunting. Fortunately, this bill never came up for a vote, largely a result of opposition from sportsmen. This was a huge victory for all Connecticut hunters! Thanks to all CWA members who commented on this bill and contacted legislators.

Unfortunately, the situation regarding public safety at this site changed a couple of years ago when a children's park was built in the northwest corner of the area immediately adjacent to the west side of the river. As a result, the area must be closed based on CGS 26-67c which states: "The commissioner may amend such regulations for a particular locality where he finds that: (1) The physical setting of a particular locality presents

an unreasonable risk that hunters may violate the regulations regarding hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials or the regulations regarding shooting towards persons, buildings or animals." This site clearly meets this criterion.

The DEEP has temporarily closed the site and has initiated a new review. CWA members knowledgeable about waterfowl hunting and public safety have visited this site as have members of the Connecticut Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC), a group composed of a variety of sporting organizations that provide input to DEEP on natural resource issues. Both CWA and CCAC agree that the area should be closed permanently and will make that recommendation to the DEEP. Keep in mind that this site is very small, difficult to access and is used by only a few hunters.

Please recognize that DEEP will not close areas that are safe to hunt based on complaints from local residents about noise associated with hunting or anti-hunting sentiment.

The CWA has long advocated for responsible waterfowl hunting. This is critical in our densely populated coastal areas where hunting often takes place in view of the public. Several years ago, the CWA developed the "Hunt Smart" Program that provides tips intended to avoid conflicts between hunters and the public. This program received a Green Circle Award from the DEEP. The "Hunt Smart" flyer can be viewed on CWA's website www.ctwaterfowlers.org under the "Education" tab.



Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter

The CWA will continue to monitor all waterfowl hunting conflicts. The only foreseeable scenario whereby CWA would again support closure of an area is if it meets the criteria of CGS 26-67c, as is the case at this site.

Waterfowl Hunting Seminar



On Sunday, September 9, 2018 the CWA in cooperation with the DEEP's Wildlife Division held its annual Waterfowl Hunter Training Seminar at the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club in Wallingford.

Twenty enthusiastic participants attended. It was a great day with fall-like weather, so it felt like a good waterfowl hunting day! Instructors provided information on many aspects of duck and goose hunting including conservation, waterfowl identification, ethics, regulations, decoy spreads, calling and other topics. Attendees also learned the value of having a hunting dog and watched "Rebel the Retriever" run a scent trail, a blind retrieve and handle to "over" and "back" commands.

A bonus was a visit from the local Environmental Conservation Police Officer. The officer fielded questions about common violations and what hunters should do when approached by an officer in the field.

After the seminar, a raffle was held and several attendees went home with decoys donated by CWA members. The morning ended with a fine waterfowl lunch including goose stew, goose kielbasa and grilled mallard breasts. Folks greatly enjoyed it – there were no leftovers!

Coming Events

Sporting Clays Shoot



Sunday October 7, 2018
Guilford Sportsmen's Association.
\$80.00 Adult
\$70.00 Current CWA members
\$55.00 Youth (under 18 years)
Registration from 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
[Details on web site.](#)



Ducks, Etc...



*Connecticut Waterfowlers Association
Summer 2018 Newsletter*

2019 CWA Fund Raising Banquet



The 2019 Banquet will be held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge on April 14, 2019. This is a very nice facility located centrally on the coast and it is literally on the coast of Long Island Sound.

[Click here for Details!](#)

Complete Hand Carved Mallard Rig



Location: East Lyme

Seller: Rich Chmiel

Price: \$2800 OBO

Telephone: 860-739-5586

Email: richchmiel@sbcglobal.net

Wood Duck Box Building Day

The Wood duck box building day will be held on Sunday October 21, 2018, beginning at 9:00 AM. This is a change from past dates when the boxes



were built in late winter. This event will again take place at the Dearborn barn at the Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor. Currently, the DEEP has only about 15 boxes available for the upcoming season. Box maintenance is most easily done when there is ice on the waterways so the need for boxes to be built early is important. We hope to see a bunch of "carpenters" at the event.

[Wood Duck Building Details](#)

For Sale

Mossberg 930 12 Gauge Autoloader



#85120

NIB, Unfired

\$500.00

Call or text 860-304-9978

Jackie Alix



Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter

Discover Outdoor Connecticut



This FREE event is sponsored by the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources.

Saturday, September 22, 2018

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area,
391 Route 32, North Franklin.**

This fun-filled event explores Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, with live animals, demonstrations, archery, fish casting, fly tying, shooting clays, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. CWA will be an exhibitor at this event.

Discover Outdoor Connecticut

Partial List of Exhibitors:

**Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Christine's Critters
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Falconers Association
Connecticut Furharvesters Association
Connecticut Trappers Association**

**Connecticut Waterfowlers Association
CT Aquatic Resources Education (CARE)
Instructors
CT Conservation Education/Firearms Safety
Instructors
CT DEEP - Bureau of Air Management
CT DEEP - Environmental Conservation Police
CT DEEP - Forestry
CT DEEP - Inland Fisheries
CT DEEP - Marine Fisheries
CT DEEP - Wildlife
CT DEEP - WHAMM
CT DEEP - State Parks and Public Outreach, No
Child Left Inside
CT DEEP - Kellogg Environmental Center
CT DEEP - James L. Goodwin Conservation
Center (and also representing Connecticut
Forest and Park Association)
Delta Waterfowl
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
Higginum Haddam Sportsman's Club
Kayak Fishing Country
K9 Search and Rescue
Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy
L.L. Bean
Metacon Junior Rifle Team
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nutmeg Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society
Putnam Fish and Game Club
Quinebaug Kennels (Jennifer Broome)
Ray Hardy, DEEP Master Wildlife
Conservationist
South Central Connecticut Regional Water
Authority
Thames Chapter of Trout Unlimited
The Home Depot, Windham, CT
The Last Green Valley National Heritage
Corridor**



Ducks, Etc...



***Connecticut Waterfowlers Association
Summer 2018 Newsletter***

**Trophy Room Taxidermy
UConn Forestry Extension
Voices Against Lyme Disease**

Waterfowl Bands Reporting and Buying???



Waterfowl band reports are an extremely important tool for waterfowl management. Waterfowl banding is a labor intensive and costly endeavor for Wildlife Biologists, but provides critical information for management including data on harvest rates, survival rates and migration patterns. However, it has become popular for some hunters to sell bands online. Although legal, the ethics of this practice are questionable. Purchasers of these bands could report them from areas where they were not harvested. Obviously, this would result in skewed data and complicate management decisions. It could, in fact, result in reduced hunting opportunities. Please, if you harvest a banded bird, report the band correctly. It is in the best interest of all waterfowl hunters.



Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter



2018-2019 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING GUIDE Open Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Changes from 2017 are highlighted in bold
(All Dates Inclusive - Except Sundays)

NORTH ZONE: The portion of the state north of Interstate 95

SOUTH ZONE: The portion of the state south of Interstate 95.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except for the September Goose Season, when shooting hours end one-half hour past sunset.

Species	Season	North Zone	South Zone	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Early	Oct. 6-Oct. 13	Oct. 13-Oct. 17	Ducks 6 ^{A,B}	18 ^{A,B}
	Late	Nov. 10-Jan. 10	Nov. 16-Jan. 19	Coots 15	45
Sea Ducks ^C (Scoter, Oldsquaw, Eider)		- -	Nov. 12-Jan. 19	5 ^D	15 ^D
Canada Geese ^E	September	Sept. 1-Sept. 29	Sept. 15-Sept. 29	15	45
	AP Unit ^F See Map	Oct. 13-Oct 20 Nov. 24-Jan. 12	--	3	9
	AFRP Unit ^G See Map	Oct. 6-Oct. 13 Nov. 10-Dec. 1 Dec. 15-Feb. 15	Oct. 6-Oct. 13 Nov. 10-Dec. 1 Dec. 15-Feb 15	5	15
	NAP-H Unit ^H See Map	Oct. 13-Oct. 20 Nov. 10-Jan. 10	Oct. 13-Oct. 20 Nov. 10-Jan. 10	2	6
	Late	- -	Jan 15-Feb 15 ^I	5	15
Snow Geese (includes Blue Geese)		Oct. 1-Jan. 14 Feb. 21-Mar. 9	Oct. 1-Dec. 1 Jan. 9-Mar. 9	25	no limit
Brant		Nov. 2-Jan. 10	Nov. 12-Jan. 19	2	6

A Includes all species of ducks, with the following restrictions: MALLARD: daily limit 4 and may include only 2 HENS. WOOD DUCK: daily limit 3. BLACK DUCK: daily limit 2. SCAUP: daily limit 2. REDHEAD: daily limit 2. **PINTAIL: daily limit 2.** CANVASBACK: daily limit 2. HOODED MERGANSER: daily limit 2. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit. SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS IS CLOSED.

B MERGANSERS AND SCAUP ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL DUCK BAG OF 6.

C In coastal waters and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.

D Daily bag limit for sea ducks may include no more than 4 SCOTERS, 4 OLDSQUAW, 4 EIDER, 12 in possession.

E Daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.

F AP Unit: Litchfield Co. and the portion of Hartford Co., west of a line beginning at the Massachusetts border in Suffield and extending south along Route 159 to its intersection with Interstate 91 in Hartford, and then extending south along Interstate 91 to its intersection with the Hartford/Middlesex Co. line.

G AFRP Unit: Starting at the intersection of Interstate 95 and the Quinnipiac River, north on the Quinnipiac River to its intersection with Interstate 91, north on Interstate 91 to Interstate 691, west on Interstate 691 to the Hartford County line, and encompassing the rest of New Haven County and Fairfield County in its entirety.

H NAP-H Unit: All of the rest of the State not included in the AP or AFRP descriptions above.

I The portion of the South Zone east of the Quinnipiac River.

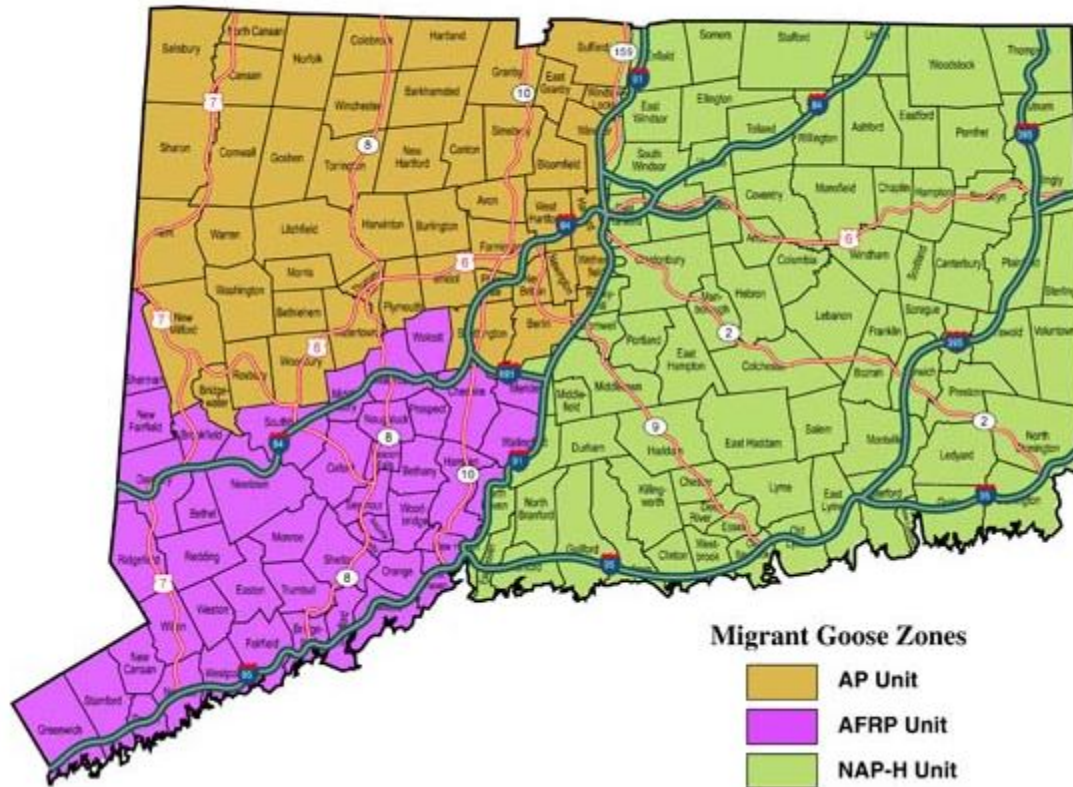


Ducks, Etc...



*Connecticut Waterfowlers Association
Summer 2018 Newsletter*

Connecticut Migrant Goose Zones





Ducks, Etc...



Connecticut Waterfowlers Association Summer 2018 Newsletter



2018-2019 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING GUIDE

Rail Season

Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is required.
[Legal Firearms](#)

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Season Dates	Shooting Hours
Virginia & Sora	25	75	Sept. 1 - Nov. 12	One-half hour before sunrise until sunset
Clapper & King*	10*	30		

*Only 1 of the daily bag limit may be a king rail.

<div>  <div> 2018-2019 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING GUIDE Woodcock and Snipe Seasons Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is required. Legal Firearms </div> </div>				
Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Season Dates	Shooting Hours
American Woodcock	3	9	Oct. 22 - Nov. 17 and Nov. 19 - Dec. 12	One-half hour before sunrise until sunset
Wilson's Snipe	8	24		

<div> <div> 2018-2019 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING GUIDE Crow Season Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is required. While crow hunting from a stationary position, a hunter is exempt from the fluorescent orange clothing regulation. Legal Firearms </div> </div>				
Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Season Dates	Shooting Hours
Crow	No Limit	No Limit	Hunting allowed only on certain days. Aug. 11 - Oct. 13, 2018 Wed., Fri., Sat. Oct. 20 - Dec. 1, 2018 Wed., Fri., Sat. Jan. 12 - March 13, 2019 Mondays through Saturdays	One-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (On Oct. 20, 2018, legal hunting starts at 7:00 AM)