If you hunt for doves, ducks or any other migratory birds, you are required to fill out a HIP Migratory Bird Survey before you go hunting. To take the quick survey just log into your My Profile page on our website FW.KY.GOV.
GENERAL REGULATIONS

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
License: Unless license exempt, hunters must possess a valid Kentucky hunting license when hunting the species listed in this guide.

A Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit, along with a federal migratory bird stamp, authorize the holder to hunt all types of migratory game birds including waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers).

For those who hunt migratory birds other than waterfowl, only a Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit is required. Before hunting migratory birds, hunters must now go online or call 1-800-888-1549 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey before they are legal migratory bird hunters.

The process takes less than 5 minutes. On the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov, click on the “My Profile” tab. This takes you to a page to a page that asks for some basic information to confirm your identity. After completing the HIP survey, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting permit.

BAITED FIELDS
It is illegal to hunt doves or waterfowl over a “baited” field. Baited fields are areas where grain, salt or other attractants have been placed other than those that occur by legitimate agricultural practices. Mature wildlife food plots grown to attract doves are legal hunting areas, as long as no additional attractants have been placed on these areas.

FIELD DRESSING
When field dressing, or otherwise preparing for transportation, any of the species in this guide, except doves, one fully feathered wing or the head must be left on each bird for identification.

HUNTING REQUIREMENTS
All shotguns used to hunt any game species in Kentucky (except deer) must be plugged to hold three shells total; one in the chamber and two in the magazine. Shotguns of 10 gauge or smaller are permitted.

TAGGING
No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following: 1) The hunter’s signature and address; 2) The total number of birds involved, by species; 3) The dates such birds were taken. Tagging is required if birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

WANTON WASTE
All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

NON-TOXIC SHOT
Possession or use of any lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl is prohibited statewide. Only USFWS-approved non-toxic shot may be possessed and used to hunt doves on Ballard, Boatwright, Doug Travis, Sloughs, Kaler Bottoms, Kentucky River, Duck Island, Taylorsville Lake, Ohio River Islands, South Shore, Yatesville Lake WMAs and Clarks River NWR and other areas as posted by signs.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE
This is a SUMMARY of the laws regarding migratory bird hunting. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources BEFORE engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.
## WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO YOU NEED?

**NOTE:** Licenses and permits are not required for kids under the age of 12.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KENTUCKY RESIDENTS</th>
<th>Ages 12-15</th>
<th>Ages 16-64</th>
<th>Ages 65 and over OR Disabled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Migratory Birds</strong> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License*</td>
<td>Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†</td>
<td>Senior/Disabled License</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waterfowl</strong> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License*</td>
<td>Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)</th>
<th>Ages 12-15</th>
<th>Ages 16 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Migratory Birds</strong> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License</td>
<td>Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Waterfowl</strong> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License</td>
<td>Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Included in Youth Sportsman’s License
†Included in Resident Sportsman’s License

Hunting Seasons

See next page for further details about these hunting seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia &amp; Sora Rail</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2015</td>
<td>25 singly or combined</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple &amp; Common Gallinule</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2015</td>
<td>3 singly or combined</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Woodcock</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2015 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 28, 2016</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Wood Duck &amp; Teal (includes blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal)</td>
<td>Sept. 19-23, 2015</td>
<td>6 birds with no more than 2 wood ducks</td>
<td>18 birds with no more than 4 wood ducks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teal Only</td>
<td>Sept. 24-27, 2015</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September Canada Goose</td>
<td>Sept. 1-15, 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Waterfowl Days</td>
<td>Eastern Zone: Nov. 7-8, 2015 Western Zone: Feb. 6-7, 2016</td>
<td>Same as duck and goose seasons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHOOTING HOURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specie, private land</th>
<th>Shooting Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dove</td>
<td>Sept. 1: 11 a.m. to sunset. Remainder of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dove, public land (WMAs, leased fields)</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Oct. 26: 11 a.m. to sunset. Remainder of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other species</td>
<td>one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

Daily limit refers to the number of birds which may be taken during a one-day period. Possession limit applies to transporting birds after two or more days of hunting but does not permit a double daily bag limit in the field.
OTHER SEASON NOTES

DOVE

Eurasian collared doves resemble mourning doves but possess a black slash across the back of their necks. Hunters should not continue to hunt for Eurasian collared doves after reaching the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. Eurasian collared doves cleaned in the field count toward the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. If the head and/or wing remains attached during transport or in the field, hunters may take unlimited numbers of Eurasian collared doves.

CROW

Mechanical devices and electronic attracting devices for crow hunting may only be used during the open season. Crows observed committing or about to commit acts of depredation may be taken year-round; however, persons attempting to take depredating crows must use U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved non-toxic shot, shall not use blinds, decoys, calls or other lures to attract birds into shooting range during the closed season.

EARLY WOOD DUCK, TEAL and CANADA GOOSE

USFWS-approved non-toxic shot no larger than size T is required for all waterfowl hunting. Hunters may not possess or use lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

The following areas are closed to this season:

1. Northeast Goose Zone: Bath, Menifee, Morgan (except the portion in Paintsville Lake WMA) and Rowan counties including Cave Run Lake.
2. West-Central Goose Zone public lands (private lands are open): Muhlenberg County, Ohio County south of Rough River, Butler County west of Hwy. 79 and north of Hwy. 70, and Hopkins County east of Hwys. 814 and Madisonville, and south of Hwy. 85 east of Madisonville.
3. Ballard Zone: Private lands in this zone are now open to this season, public lands remain closed. The portion of Ballard County north or west of the Ballard-McCracken County line to Hwy. 358; Hwy. 358 to U.S. 60; U.S. 60 to the city limits of Wickliffe; the city limits of Wickliffe to the center of the Mississippi River.

Areas manipulated for dove hunting are not legal for waterfowl hunting.

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS

Two weekends, one in each duck zone, have been designated for youth only to waterfowl hunt. Hunters under age 16 may take a legal limit of ducks, coots, mergansers and geese on these days. See the 2015-16 Kentucky Hunting Guide for Waterfowl for additional information.

PUBLIC HUNTING

2015 PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS

WMAs and Cooperative Fields

Private fields in the cooperative dove field program are open for public dove hunting Sept. 1 and 5 (except Mentor-Youth Hunt sites are closed to the general public Sept. 1-5). All fields reopen Sept. 6 - Oct. 26. Private cooperative fields are closed to public access except on the dates listed above. Hunters may drive by private cooperative fields prior to the season but may not leave their vehicles to scout. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are open during regular seasons under statewide regulations unless otherwise specified in the following list. Wet weather may have delayed spring planting of some fields. Field conditions may vary considerably, even on the same WMA. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends hunters scout fields listed below to ensure they are ready for the time you plan to hunt. When hunting a public area, hunt safely and be courteous of others. Do not leave trash behind. The future of the cooperative dove field program depends on you.
**WESTERN KENTUCKY**

**Ballard County**
- Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA): U.S. 60 west from Paducah, about 16 miles then right onto Hwy. 310. Travel about 6 miles to stop sign at Hwy. 358. Cross Hwy. 358 and continue on Hwy. 310 to Hwy 1105. Cross Hwy. 1105 onto Mitchell Lake Rd. then travel about 2 miles to fields on both sides of road. **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**-approved, non-toxic shot only.

**Livingston County**
- From Carrolls, take Hwy. 135 east 0.6 mile to field on left.

**McCracken County**
- Clark’s River National Wildlife Refuge: Mentor/Youth Hunts – Sept. 5-6, call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations. Opens to public hunting Sept. 7. From Symsonia, Hwy. 131 north about 2.15 miles to fields on left marked by signs. Shooting hours 2-7 p.m. local time. **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**-approved, non-toxic shot only.

**WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY**

**Barren County**
- Barren River Lake WMA, Goose Island Unit: Access from US 31 E to Hwy. 1318.

**Breckinridge County**
- Yellowbank WMA: 20 miles north of Hardinsburg on Hwy. 259; 20 miles west of Brandenburg on Hwy. 144 to Hwy. 259. 2 fields, see map at Information Station. **On Tract 4, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**-approved, non-toxic shot only (marked by signs).

**Henderson County**
- Sloughs WMA: Two fields off Hwy. 268; one field off Mt. Vernon Rd. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**-approved, non-toxic shot only.

**Hopkins County**
- From the Pennyrile Parkway, exit 37, turn east toward Pilot Truck Stop, then right onto Hwy. 813 for about 4.8 miles to field on left side of highway.

**Muhlenberg County**
- From Western Kentucky Parkway exit 48, take Hwy. 175 north to a right just north of the parkway on Hwy. 2693 (Graham-Cypress Rd.) for 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Powerhouse Rd. for 0.4 mile to field on right.

**Muhlenberg/Ohio counties**
- Peabody WMA: Sinclair Unit, 3 fields; Baker Bottoms Unit, 2 fields; and Ken Unit, 3 fields. User permit required for Peabody WMA, call (270) 476-1889 for more information.

**Todd County**
- From Sharon Grove, take Hwy. 106 north to a left onto Crawford Rd. for 1 mile to field on left at Gail Sears Rd.

**Union County**
- Higginson-Henry WMA: Hwy. 56, about 7 miles southeast of Morgantown. Two fields, see maps at kiosk. One field (marked by signs) closed Sept. 1-5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.

**Franklin County**
- T.N. Sullivan WMA: From Frankfort, take U.S. 127 north for 4.1 miles to a right onto Steele Branch Rd. and proceed to the “T” with Old Owenton Rd. Turn left and travel 0.4 mile to a right onto Hwy. 1262 (Sullivan Lane) for 0.75 mile to WMA. Follow signs to field.

**Grant County**
- Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA: 3 fields. Take Crittenden exit from I-75. Follow U.S. 25 south to Hwy. 491, turn left across railroad tracks, then right on Wildlife Rd. Field 2 closed Sept. 1 – 5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.

**Harrison County**
- Griffith Woods WMA: From Georgetown, take U.S. 62 east toward Cynthiana. Field on left 0.5 mile from intersection of Hwy. 353 (Russell Cave Road).

**Henry County**
- Kentucky River WMA: 2 tracts. Welch Tract: U.S. 421 to Hwy. 561, 1 mile west of Gest (near Lock 3). Boone Tract: Hwy 355 to Gratz. Turn left onto KY 22. Cross the Kentucky River then take a right onto KY 389 and travel about 3 miles. Follow signs for parking. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**-approved, non-toxic shot only on both tracts.

**Madison County**
- Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA: 9 miles southeast of Richmond; from U.S. 421 at Kingston left (east) onto Hwy. 3376 (Dreyfus Rd.) for about 2 miles. Turn right (south) onto Muddy Creek Rd. (just past WMA office) to dove fields on right.
- From Interstate I-75 exit 95, take Hwy 627 east for 1.6 miles to field on right.

**Mercer County**
- From Bluegrass Parkway exit 59, take U.S. 127 south to Lower Clay Lick Road for 0.5 mile. Follow signs to parking area. **Closed Sept. 1 – 5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt on Sept. 5; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.**
CLOSED AREAS

CLOSED TO MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

1) The main block of Robinson Forest WMA; 2) the portion of Grayson Lake WMA within three-quarters of a mile of the dam, the Deer Creek Branch, the shores of Camp Webb and the state park; 3) the Greenbrier Creek Branch of Yatesville Lake, including all islands, north of the mouth of Greenbrier Creek Branch; 4) Land Between The Lakes NRA from Sept. 30 - Nov. 30.

CLOSED TO WATERFOWL HUNTING

All designated goose refuge lakes within the Western Kentucky coalfields are closed to all waterfowl hunting.

WATERFOWL REFUGES

The following areas are waterfowl refuges: portion of Lake Cumberland WMA including Wesley Bend (bounded by Fishing Creek, Fishing Creek Road and Beech Grove Road) and Yellowhole (bounded by Fishing Creek Road and Hickory Nut Road) are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. Ohio River Waterfowl Refuge (From Smithland Lock and Dam upstream to powerline crossing at river mile 911.5) is closed to hunting Oct. 15 - March 15 and Stewart Island is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Peabody WMA, portions of Sinclair and Homestead mines as marked by signs are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Sloughs WMA, the Sauerheber Unit is closed to the public Nov. 1-March 15 except the Crenshaw and Duncan tracts which are open for waterfowl hunting only. The area of Yellowbank WMA posted by signs is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15.
MENTOR/YOUTH DOVE HUNTS

Fields set aside for Mentor/Youth hunts are open Sept. 5 only to pre-registered hunters only (except for Clark's River NWR). On this day, adult dove hunters can introduce a young hunter to the challenge and tradition of the early season dove hunt. Hunts require pre-registration (see rules below for details). Thereafter, unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Mentor/Youth dove fields on wildlife management areas reopen to the public Sept. 6, while private fields operated by the department reopen for general public hunting Sept. 6 as well. The following rules describe the hunt.

MENTOR/YOUTH HUNT RULES

1. Open only to adults accompanied by a youth (ages 15 and under), though not necessary for the youth to hunt.
2. Both mentor and youth can hunt, but must do so from the same field location (stake). All hunters must stay within 15 feet of their assigned shooting location. One adult may take two youths to these hunts. Two shotguns are allowed per stake. Each hunter is allowed 15 doves.
3. The number of hunters in Mentor/Youth Hunt fields will be strictly limited to ensure a safe and quality hunt.
4. Field slots will be available only by advanced registration from 8 a.m. EDT Aug. 10, until 4:30 p.m. EDT, Aug. 21; call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays from 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m. Unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis at the field on the day of the hunt until all slots are filled.
5. Hunting groups must check in prior to hunting and check out prior to leaving the field with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff.
6. After the field is filled no new hunting groups will be allowed in.
7. Hunting groups in the field may move to different staked sites when the assigned group vacates that site.
8. Hunters must leave their guns at their shooting location (stake) when retrieving downed birds.
9. Shooting hours limited to 2-7 p.m., local time. All hunting groups must be out of the field by 7:30 p.m., local time.
10. All hunters will be responsible for cleaning up their shooting location (stake) when retrieving downed birds.
11. Mentors and youth must conduct themselves in a safe manner and abide by these and other rules posted at the hunt field. Failure to do so will result in termination of hunting privilege for that field that day.
12. Hunter education and licensing requirements apply.

OTHER HUNTING AREAS

The following areas have special seasons and regulations for all hunting. Contact the individual areas at the addresses and telephone numbers listed below.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-5770

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-5770

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION
Hunt Control Office
Fort Knox, KY 40121-5719
(502) 624-7311

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
100 Van Morgan Dr.
Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001
(270) 924-2065

OHIO RIVER ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
3982 Waverly Rd., Williamstown, WV 26187
(304) 375-2923, ext. 117

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261
(731) 538-2481

YOUTH HUNTING

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS not listed here or in the “Closed Areas” section are open under statewide regulations.

BALLARD WMA and SWAN LAKE PORTION of BOATWRIGHT WMA (Ballard County)
No woodcock hunting permitted.

BALLARD WMA and SWAN LAKE PORTION of BOATWRIGHT WMA (Ballard County)
No woodcock hunting permitted.

PIONEER WEAPONS AREAS
Breech- and muzzle-loading shotguns may be used to take wood ducks and teal on the shoreline portions of the Pioneer Weapons Areas at 1) Cave Run Lake, and 2) all waterfowl at Barren River Lake.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA (McCracken County)
Dove, snipe and woodcock: Open under statewide seasons, except closed during deer gun seasons. (WMA closed to September Canada goose season.)

SPECIAL WMA RESTRICTIONS

Areas designated by signs are closed to all hunting.

MILLER WELCH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY WMA (Madison County)
No woodcock hunting permitted.

101st Airborne Div. Ave.
Ft. Campbell, KY 42223-5000
(270) 798-2175

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION
Hunt Control Office
Fort Knox, KY 40121-5719
(502) 624-7311

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
100 Van Morgan Dr.
Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001
(270) 924-2065

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REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261
(731) 538-2481

MILLER WELCH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY WMA (Madison County)
No woodcock hunting permitted.