

Small Game Regulations

A small game licence is not valid in some parts of northern and central Ontario from June 16 to August 31. For more information see page 15 and the map on pages 10-11. Additional licence information and fees can be found on page 15.

Firearms

If you are hunting small game in an area where there is an open season for deer, moose, elk, or black bear, you may not possess or use a rifle of greater muzzle energy than 400 foot-pounds or shells loaded with ball or with shot larger than No. 2 shot (or if using non-toxic shot, you may not use steel shot larger than triple BBB steel shot, or bismuth shot that is larger than double BB bismuth shot), unless you possess a valid licence to hunt deer, moose, elk or black bear as the case may be. This restriction does not apply south of the French and Mattawa Rivers during an open season for deer that is restricted to the use of bows.

A person hunting small game may not carry or use a rifle of greater calibre than a .275-calibre rifle, except a muzzle-loading gun, in the geographic areas of Brant, Chatham-Kent, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington or York.

Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 30, for information on import, export and shipping. **PENDING - See page 4 for more information on proposed changes to the export of certain wildlife species by residents of Ontario.**

Game Birds

You may hunt and possess wild turkey, pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse, ptarmigan and gray (Hungarian) partridge. Check the tables (page 80) for bag and possession limits. **You require a special licence to hunt wild turkey in addition to a small game licence** (see pages 31-33). You may only hunt game birds identified in the tables.

In addition, Ontario residents may hunt American crow, brown-headed cowbird, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, starling and house sparrows. **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to allow non-residents to hunt these species as well.** Chukar is not included in the tables but may be hunted in some circumstances. Call your local MNR office for more information. **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to releasing pheasants and chukars for hunting purposes.**

Specially Protected Birds

You must not shoot specially protected birds or interfere with the eggs and nests of game birds and specially protected birds. (See Definitions, page 87 for a list of Specially Protected Wildlife).

Game Bird Hunting Preserves

You may hunt pheasant, northern bobwhite and wild turkey throughout the year on game bird hunting preserves. You must arrange with the owner as to when you can hunt. Ontario residents need a licence to hunt small game when hunting on a preserve.

A non-resident hunter needs either a non-resident's licence to hunt game birds on a game bird hunting preserve or a non-resident's small game licence.

Migratory Game Birds

(See Definitions on page 86.)

Migratory game bird seasons are the responsibility of the federal government.

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and its regulations govern hunting of migratory game birds. It is illegal to hunt migratory birds within 400 m (437 yd.) of where bait has been deposited unless that place has been free of bait for at least seven days. It is also illegal to deposit bait in any place during the period beginning 14 days before the first day of the open season for that place and ending on the day immediately following the last day of the open season for that place for any hunted migratory game bird.

When transporting migratory game birds, a fully feathered wing must remain attached until the bird is prepared for immediate consumption or preservation.

Migratory Game Bird Licensing

You must have a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (MGBHP), Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, and an Ontario licence to hunt small game in order to hunt migratory game birds. This includes hunting with falconry birds. See page 81 for more information regarding falconry. You may purchase a MGBHP and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp at most post offices. Season dates and bag limits are announced mid-summer at which point the Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summary is published. More information on migratory birds is available from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service website at www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr or at Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service Ontario regional office located at 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5T4, (tel): 1-800-668-6767, or email address: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca.

Waterfowler Heritage Day

A Waterfowler Heritage Day provides qualified young hunters (12 to 17 years of age) with the opportunity to practise hunting skills and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment generally before the season opens for other hunters. Qualified young hunters will not need to purchase a MGBHP and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp but they must meet all mandatory federal and provincial requirements, including having an Ontario hunter apprenticeship safety card (available only to Ontario residents) or small game licence (16 and 17 year olds). They must comply with Ontario's *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, its Regulations and the Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations (e.g., daily bag and possession limits, hunting methods, etc.). Mentors must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid MGBHP, Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, and Ontario small game licence. Each mentor may accompany only one young hunter. Mentors will not be permitted to use a firearm. While hunting, mentors are required to provide continuous direct and immediate supervision to the youth. They are also expected to provide guidance, including advice and direction on firearm safety and hunting etiquette and skills, such as decoy setup, dog handling and bird retrieval. If young hunters elect to hunt at other times during the open hunting season, they will be required to purchase a MGBHP and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, in addition to their hunter apprenticeship safety card or small game licence.

Refer to page 22 for more information about Ontario's Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program.

Pheasant Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

TOWNSHIP / MUNICIPALITY LICENCES – A township licence is required in addition to a provincial licence for hunting pheasant in regulated townships (see maps, pp. 8-13). Contact the municipal clerk for issuance of township licences and information on firearm restrictions. Hunting of pheasants with a rifle is prohibited.

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Hours
2-41, 45	Sept. 14 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
42-44, 46-50, 53-59, 61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
60, 68, 69A, 70-77, 81-86	Sept. 25 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
78	Oct. 9 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	8 a.m. to 1/2 hour after sunset
88	Oct. 23 to Nov. 2	3 cocks	
79, 80, 87	Oct. 16 to Dec. 15	3, one hen limit	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
89, 90, 91, 92	Oct. 16 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
93	Oct. 30 to Dec. 15	3, one hen limit	
94	Oct. 30 to Nov. 2	2 cocks	
95	Oct. 24, 25, 31 Nov. 1, 7, 8	Daily & Possession Limit 10 of either sex	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Nov. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 Dec. 5, 6, 7	Daily & Possession Limit 5 of either sex	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1 to the last day of February, in any year	Daily & Possession Limit 5 of either sex	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

Sharp-Tailed Grouse and Ptarmigan Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
1A, 1C, 1D	Sept. 5 to Mar. 31 of the next year	For All WMUs: 5 Sharp-tailed Grouse and 5 Ptarmigan	For All WMUs: 15 Sharp-tailed Grouse and 15 Ptarmigan
2-9, 11-16, 19, 20, 21	Sept. 14 to Dec. 31		
10, 32-39, 41, 45	Sept. 14 to Dec. 15		
17, 18, 22-31, 40	Sept. 14 to Mar. 31 of the next year		
42-44, 46-50, 53-59	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15		
61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 31		
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71	Sept. 25 to Dec. 31		

Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
1A, 1C, 1D	Sept. 5 to Dec. 31	For all WMUs: Combined total of 5	For all WMUs: Combined total of 15
2-31	Sept. 14 to Dec. 31		
32-41, 45	Sept. 14 to Dec. 15		
42-44, 46-50, 53-59	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15		
61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 31		
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71	Sept. 25 to Dec. 31		
72-92	Sept. 25 to Jan. 15 of the next year		
93	Oct. 30 to Jan. 15 of the next year		

Gray (Hungarian) Partridge Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
13	Sept. 14 to Nov. 9	8	16
55-59, 61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Nov. 9	8	16
60, 68, 69A, 70-75, 88, 89	Sept. 25 to Nov. 9	8	16
76	Oct. 19 to Oct. 25	8	16
87, 90	Oct. 16 to Dec. 15	8	16

Hunters should ALWAYS check with the appropriate park office regarding areas open to hunting, species that can be hunted, seasons, and other restrictions that apply in each park. Call 1-800-667-1940 for assistance.

Small Mammals

Squirrel Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

Gray (Black), Fox

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
36 - 41, 45	Sept. 14 to Dec. 15	10	10
42 - 44, 46 - 50, 53 - 59, 61 - 67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15	10	10
60, 68, 69A, 70 - 92	Sept. 25 to Dec. 15	5	10
93, 94	Oct. 30 to Nov. 7	5	10

Rabbit and Hare Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

Cottontail Rabbit, European Hare, Varying (Snowshoe) Hare

TOWNSHIP / MUNICIPALITY LICENCES: A township or municipality licence is required in addition to a provincial licence for hunting rabbits in a regulated township (see maps, pp. 8-13). Contact the municipal clerk for issuance of township licences and information on firearm restrictions.

NON-RESIDENTS NOTE: A non-resident's small game licence is not valid for hunting rabbits in the county of Lambton, the Municipality of Chatham / Kent or the county of Essex, except in the Township of Pelee.

NOTE: Hunters should ALWAYS check with the appropriate park office regarding areas open to hunting, species that can be hunted, seasons, and other restrictions that apply in each park. Call 1-800-667-1940 for assistance.

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit
1 - 50, 53 - 59	Sept. 1 to June 15 of the next year	1) Cottontail Rabbit: limit of 6 2) European Hare: limit of 6 3) Varying Hare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for WMUs 1-50 and 53-59: no limit • for WMUs 60-95: 6 maximum
61 - 67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Mar. 31 of the next year	
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71, 74, 75	Sept. 25 to Mar. 31 of the next year	
72, 73, 76, 77, 81 - 86	Sept. 25 to the last day of February of the next year	
78, 79, 80, 87, 90, 91, 92	Oct. 16 to the last day of February of the next year	
88, 89	Oct. 23 to the last day of February of the next year	
93, 94	Oct. 30 to the last day of February of the next year	
95	Jan. 1 to the last day of February	

Falconry

Falconry involves the use of trained raptors (birds of prey, such as red-tailed hawk) to hunt small game. The rules for falconry in Ontario are set out in the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, and associated regulations.

A falconry licence is required to hunt with raptors native to Ontario, and you must also have a valid small game hunting licence. For more information, please contact your local ministry office.

Hunting With Falconry Birds – Residents and Non-Residents

Species	WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Bag Limits	Possession Limits
Gray Partridge (Hungarian)	13, 55-68, 69A, 70-76, 87-90	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	2	6
Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse	1-50, 53-90	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	Combined total of 3	Combined total of 9
Sharp-tailed Grouse and Ptarmigan	1-50, 53-93	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	3 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 3 Ptarmigan	9 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 9 Ptarmigan
Ring-necked Pheasant	2-50, 53-95	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	2 of either sex	2 of either sex
Cottontail, Varying Hare, European Hare	1-50, 53-59	Sept. 1 to Jun. 15 of the next year	6 Cottontail, 3 Varying Hare, 3 European Hare	No limit
Cottontail, Varying Hare, European Hare	60-95	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	6 Cottontail, 3 Varying Hare, 3 European Hare	No limit
Gray (Black) and Fox Squirrels	36-50, 53-94	Sept. 1 to Mar. 31 of the next year	Combined total of 5	Combined total of 5

Furbearing Mammal Regulations

Furbearing Mammals

You may only hunt the furbearing mammals (see Definitions, page 86) listed in the table below under the authority of your small game licence. See special regulations for **Wolf and Coyote** on page 83. Note that a small game licence is not valid in northern Ontario and parts of central Ontario (as shown on Map 2, pages 10-11) from June 16 to August 31.

If you wish to hunt **raccoons at night**, you must carry your resident's licence to hunt raccoon at night and your Outdoors Card with a small game licence tag. You must also be accompanied by a dog licensed for raccoon hunting. You can only use a .22 calibre rim-fire rifle chambered for the following cartridges: .22 short, .22 long or .22 long rifle. Raccoon night hunters must have their guns encased while in the vehicle. A licensed night raccoon hunter may use a light if it is not shone from or attached to a vehicle or boat. **PENDING - See page 4 for more information on proposed changes related to hunting raccoon at night.**

Possession of Pelts During the Closed Season

Small game hunters who harvest furbearing mammals, including wolves and coyotes, during the open season and have not disposed of the pelts by the close of the season

must obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt in order to possess pelts during the closed season. Please contact a ministry office to make arrangements to obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt (available free of charge). **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to the Licence to Possess a Pelt and Certificate of Reporting.**

Royalty, Import, Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 30, for information on import, export and shipping. **PENDING - See page 4 for more information on proposed changes to the export of certain wildlife species by residents of Ontario.**

A royalty is payable to the province at the time that the hunter/trapper obtains a licence to send pelts to a tanner (for tanning or treating, including taxidermy), or a licence to export a furbearing mammal. **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to the Licence to Send Pelts to a Tanner.**

Game Wildlife and Parts

See page 29 on Game Wildlife and Parts for information on selling and spoilage.

Furbearing Mammals which may be harvested under the authority of a small game licence			
Species	Area	Resident Open Seasons	Non-Resident Open Seasons
Raccoon	All of Ontario*	Oct. 15 to Jan. 15 of the next year	Oct. 15 to Jan. 15 of the next year (No night hunting)
Red Fox	All of Ontario north of French and Mattawa Rivers*	Sept. 15 to the last day of Feb. of the next year	Sept. 15 to the last day of Feb. of the next year
	Remainder of Ontario*	All Year	All Year
Arctic Fox	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to Mar. 31 of the next year	No Season
Skunk	All of Ontario*	All Year	No Season**
Weasel	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to the last day of Feb. of the next year	No Season
Opossum	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to Jan. 15 of the next year	No Season**
Wolf and Coyote	See table p. 84	See table p. 84	See table p. 84

* Generally, furbearing mammals may not be hunted in Provincial Parks (See Hunting in Parks on page 28) and Crown Game Preserves (See Crown Game Preserves on page 27).

** PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to species that may be hunted by non-residents under a small game licence.

A Message from Ontario's Conservation Officers

It is an offence under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* for anyone to trespass for the purpose of hunting or fishing.

1-877-847-7667



Wolf and Coyote Regulations

Information for All Wolf and Coyote Hunters

Licence fees can be found on page 15.

You may only hunt wolves and coyotes under the authority of your small game licence. **In WMUs 43-45 and 59-95, only your small game licence is required.**

In WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53-58, the following regulations apply:

- The wolf/coyote hunting season is closed from April 1 to September 14.
- You may only hunt wolves and coyotes under the authority of your small game licence accompanied by a wolf/coyote game seal purchased at licence issuers and participating ServiceOntario centres. A valid small game licence is required in order to purchase a wolf/coyote game seal. You can purchase a maximum of two wolf/coyote game seals per calendar year. The seals may be purchased separately or at the same time.
- Party hunting of these animals is not permitted.
- You are required to immediately attach your wolf/coyote game seal to the wolf/coyote you have killed.
- You must complete and mail a mandatory questionnaire on your wolf/coyote hunting activity and harvest by January 15 of the year following the hunt. You must submit the questionnaire even if you bought a seal but did not hunt. Mandatory questionnaires will be mailed to hunters by the ministry in December. You should mail your completed questionnaire to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Big Game Harvest Assessment Program, 1350 High Falls Road, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W9, or use the easy and quick online option at ontario.ca/huntersurvey.

The above regulations include coyotes within core wolf range (WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53-58) because coyotes may be difficult to distinguish from wolves, especially eastern wolves, where their ranges overlap. The above regulations do not apply to wolves and coyotes in WMUs south of core wolf range (WMUs 43-45 and 59-95).

Generally, wolves and coyotes cannot be hunted in Provincial Parks, including the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park.

Firearms

See page 79, Small Game Regulations, for specifications on firearms.

Sealing and Transporting

Party hunting for wolves and coyotes is not permitted in WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53 to 58. This means that you may hunt co-operatively with several hunters; however, each hunter will have to be in possession of a wolf/coyote game seal to hunt wolves/coyotes in these WMUs, and the hunter that harvests the animal must personally seal it and may not continue to participate in the hunt unless in possession of an unfilled second wolf/coyote seal. It is illegal to transfer a wolf/coyote game seal from one hunter in order to seal a wolf or coyote taken by another hunter.

NOTE: The specific rules around “party hunting” as summarized on page 25 apply only to moose, deer, elk or black bears.

Once you have killed a wolf or coyote under a wolf/coyote game seal, you must, **immediately** after the kill and at the kill site, securely **attach your game seal to the animal in the manner prescribed on the instruction panel attached to the seal.** The game seal must remain attached while the pelt (on or off the carcass) is being transported.

You must notch out the month, day and time of the kill on the wolf/coyote game seal, at the time of, and at the location of, the kill.

In WMUs 43-45 and 59-95 where a wolf/coyote seal is not required, you may hunt co-operatively in a group or party for wolves or coyotes without restrictions on the number of animals harvested or who can take them.

Possession of Pelts During the Closed Season

See page 82, Furbearing Mammals. **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to the Licence to Possess a Pelt and Certificate of Reporting.**

Royalty, Import, Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 30, for information on import, export and shipping.

A royalty is payable to the province at the time that the hunter/trapper obtains a licence to send pelts to a tanner (for tanning or treating, including taxidermy), or a licence to export a furbearing mammal. **PENDING - See page 5 for more information on proposed changes to the Licence to Send Pelts to a Tanner.**

A CITES export permit is also required to export ALL wolves from Canada. Please contact a ministry office to make arrangements to acquire CITES permits (available free of charge). **Please allow up to 10 days to obtain a permit. More information on CITES is available at www.cites.ca**

In some countries, importation of wolves is restricted; requirements for importation should be determined by the exporter prior to shipment.



Wolf and Coyote Seasons

Species	Area/WMUs	Open Season (Resident and Non-resident)
Wolf and Coyote*	1A, 1C, 1D, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11**, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 49, and 53B In 48, 50, 53A, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58 except in the geographic townships listed below with no season.	From September 15, in any year, to March 31, of the next year
Wolf and Coyote	In the geographic townships of Airy, Alice, Ballantyne, Boulter, Boyd, Bruton, Burns, Butt, Calvin, Cameron, Chisholm, Clancy, Clara, Clyde, Dickens, Dudley, Eyre, Finlayson, Franklin, Fraser, Hagarty, Harburn, Harcourt, Havelock, Head, Herschel, Lauder, Livingstone, Maria, McClintock, McClure, McCraney, McKay, Murchison, Papineau, Paxton, Petawawa, Richards, Rolph, Sabine, Sinclair, and Wylie	No season
Wolf and Coyote	43, 44, 45, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 and 95	All year

* Wolf/coyote game seal required in order to hunt wolves and coyotes in these WMUs.

** Does not include WMU 11C, Quetico Provincial Park.

Game Amphibians and Reptiles

Frogs and Turtles

NEW – Snapping Turtle Mandatory Harvest Reporting

If you harvest a snapping turtle you must complete the mandatory questionnaire and submit it to the ministry by January 14th of the the following calendar year. Copies of the questionnaire are available online at ontario.ca/harvestreporting.

Snapping turtles and bullfrogs may be taken under the authority of a valid sport or conservation fishing licence. No commercial harvest of snapping turtles or bullfrogs is permitted. You may only take snapping turtles by box or funnel traps or by hand. You may not remove the upper shell from any snapping turtle until immediately before it is prepared for consumption.

No firearm other than a bow (compound, recurve, long) or crossbow may be used to take bullfrogs. A person may take bullfrogs at night without a firearm and a person may shine a light for that purpose.

You may take bullfrogs from July 21 to October 15. You may not take more than 10 bullfrogs in one day nor possess more than 10. Bullfrogs may not be taken in the City of Ottawa (formerly the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton), the counties of Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Leeds and Grenville, Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox



and Addington, Prince Edward, Northumberland, Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes (formerly Victoria County) or in the townships in the County of Hastings south of and including the townships of Marmora and Lake, Tudor and Cashel, and Elzevir and Grimsthorpe.

See the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for additional information about the capture and use of frogs for bait.

NOTE: It is illegal to harvest bullfrogs or turtles in provincial parks or Crown Game Preserves.

Snapping Turtle as Special Concern Species

The snapping turtle is listed as special concern under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, and the federal *Species at Risk Act, 2002*. Species classified as Special Concern provincially and federally have management planning requirements. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the federal government will work toward meeting these requirements. To learn more, visit ontario.ca/speciesatrisk or contact your local MNR office.

Open Season for Snapping Turtles

WMU(s)	Residents	Non-residents	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
2 to 45	All year	All year	2	5
61, 62	All year	July 15 to Sept. 15	2	5
46-50, 53-60, 63-95	July 15 to Sept. 15	July 15 to Sept. 15	2	5