



Department of Environmental Conservation

2025-26 Hunting & Trapping Seasons Summary

For complete rules and regulations see Official New York Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide



Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Sept. 27 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting (WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H only)	Dec. 8 - Dec. 14

Southern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (not in 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Westchester County (3S)	
Regular - bowhunting only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

Suffolk County (1C)	
Regular - Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31
Special Firearms (Permit Req.)	Jan. 4 - Jan. 31

Early Antlerless Season	
	Sept. 13 - Sept. 21

Tags: DMP and DMAP
Vertical Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C
Firearms, Bow, & Crossbow: 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F

Black Bear Hunting

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Regular	Sept. 13 - Dec. 7
Bowhunting	Sept. 13 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Muzzleloading	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7

Southern Zone	
Early Firearms	Sept. 6 - Sept. 21
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (Not in WMUs 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
Late Muzzleloading	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16

Westchester County (3S)	
Regular - bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

Bear hunting in Allegany State Park requires a park permit.

Area Open: All open areas, except bowhunting only WMUs

Eligible Hunters: Youth 14-15 yrs

Season Dates: Oct. 11 - 13, 2025

Statewide Bag: 1 bird of either sex

Statewide Bag Limit: 1 bearded bird

Open Areas: Same as regular spring season

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24 Dec. 8 - Dec. 14
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24

Southern Zone	
Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Antler Point Restrictions: during all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

Fall Season 2025	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
Oct. 1 - Oct. 14	1 bird of either sex
Oct. 18 - Oct. 31	
Nov. 15 - Nov. 28	
Closed	

Spring Season 2026

Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
May 1 - May 31	- 2 bearded birds, no more than 1 per day.
	- No more than 1 in WMU 1C.
Closed	

Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons

Fall Season 2025	
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
Oct. 1 - Oct. 14	1 bird of either sex
Oct. 18 - Oct. 31	
Nov. 15 - Nov. 28	
Closed	

Spring Season 2026

Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
May 1 - May 31	- 2 bearded birds, no more than 1 per day.
	- No more than 1 in WMU 1C.
Closed	

Youth Turkey Season Spring 2026

Hunting Hours:	1/2 hour before sunrise to noon
Season Dates:	April 25 - 26, 2026
Statewide Bag Limit:	1 bearded bird
Open Areas:	Same as regular spring season

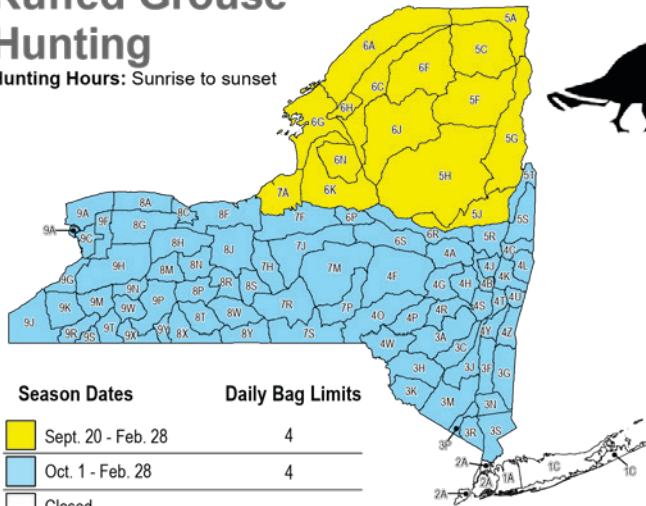
Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

HuntFishNY Mobile App * 1-866-426-3778 * www.dec.ny.gov

Most regulations are in effect Sept. 1, 2025 through Aug. 31, 2026

Ruffed Grouse Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset



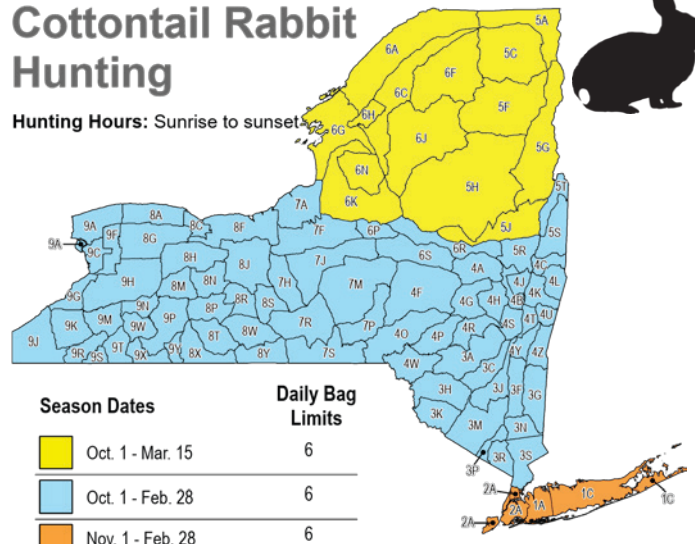
Season Dates

Daily Bag Limits

Sept. 20 - Feb. 28	4
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4
Closed	

Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset



Season Dates

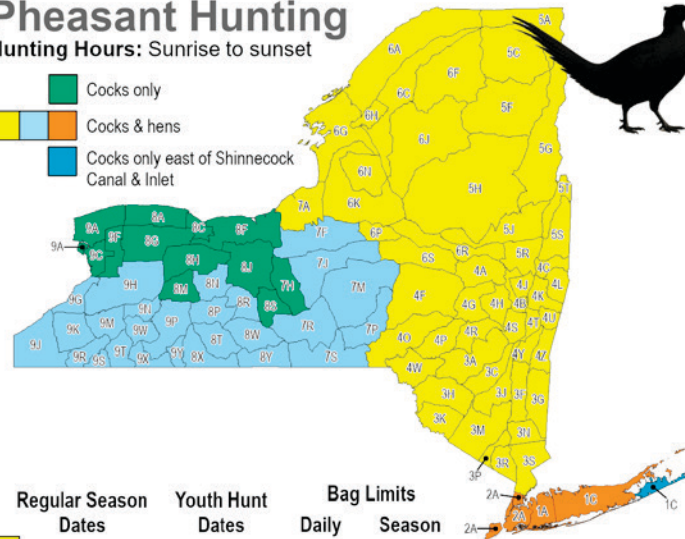
Daily Bag Limits

Oct. 1 - Mar. 15	6
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	6
Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	6

Pheasant Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet



Regular Season Dates

Youth Hunt Dates

Bag Limits

Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	Sept. 27 & 28	2	--
Oct. 18 - Feb. 28	Oct. 11 & 12	2	--
Oct. 18 - Dec. 31	Oct. 11 & 12	2	--
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 25 & 26 ¹	2 ¹ /4 ^{**}	30
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 25 & 26	2 ¹ /4 ^{**}	30

¹In WMU 2A no youth hunt; hunting is by falconry only
^{**}Youth hunt
^{**}Regular season

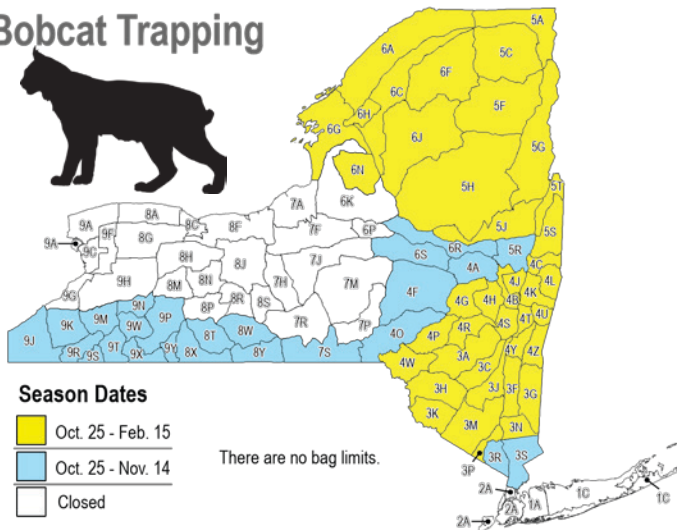
Bobwhite Quail Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

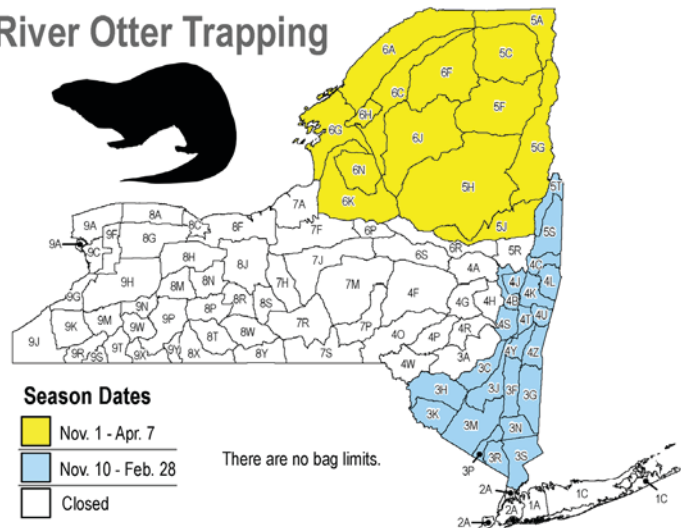
Season Dates	Bag Limits	Daily	Season
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4	10	
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	6	40	
Closed			



Bobcat Trapping



River Otter Trapping

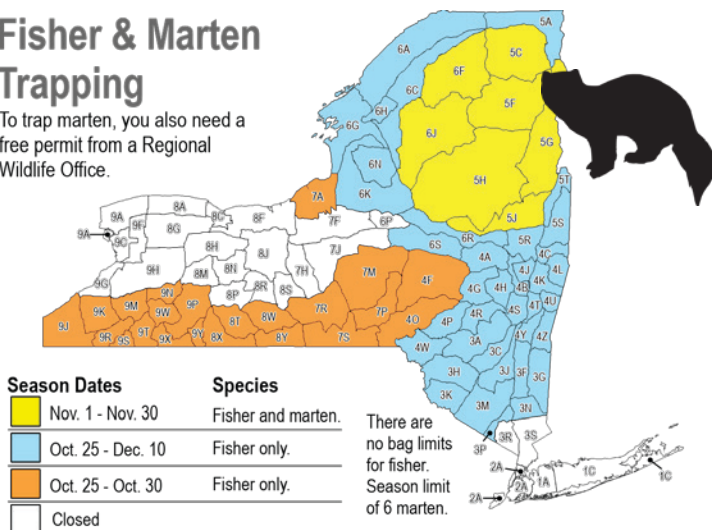


If you take a bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten, you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap marten, you also need a free permit from a Regional Wildlife Office.

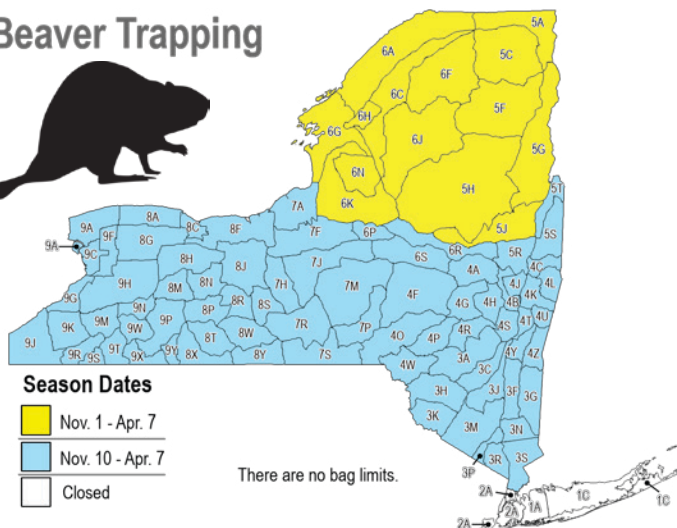


Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping

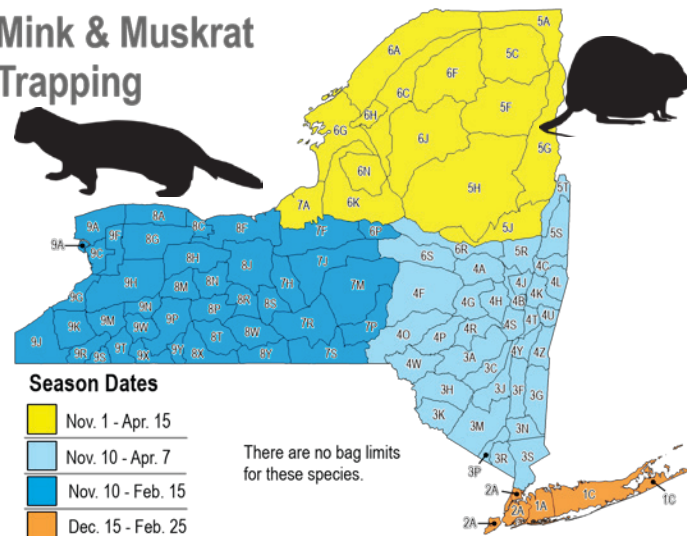


*In the Northern Zone, body gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

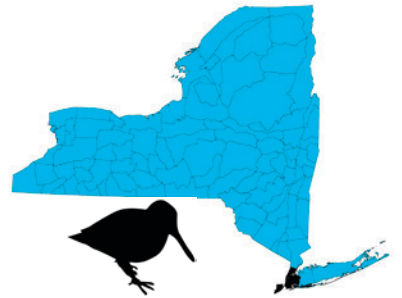
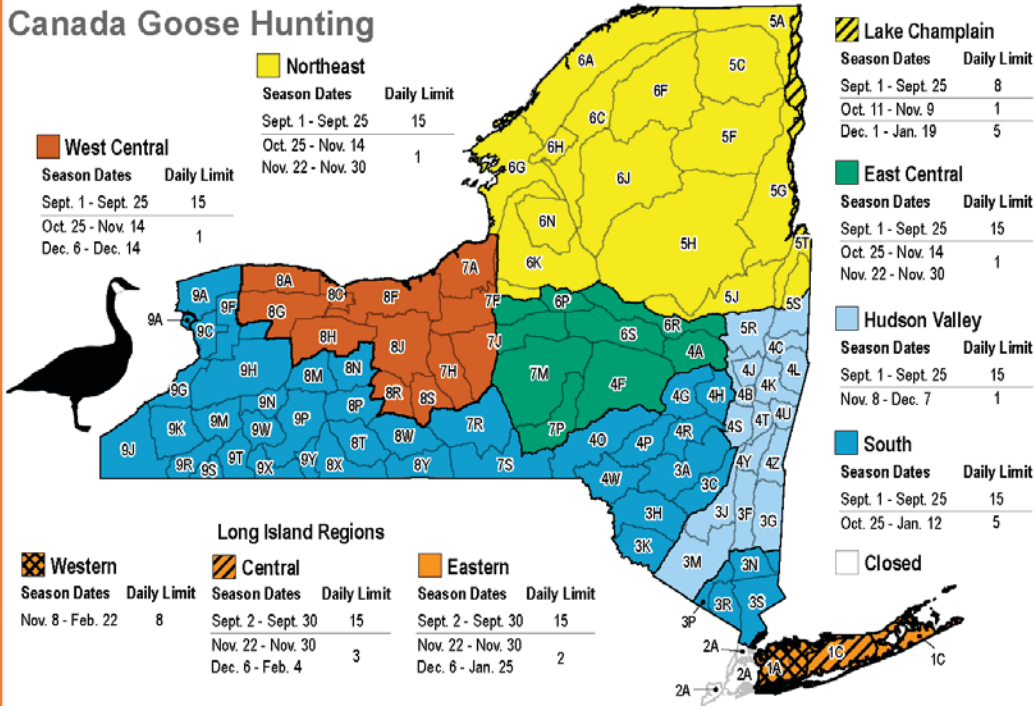
Beaver Trapping



Mink & Muskrat Trapping



Canada Goose Hunting



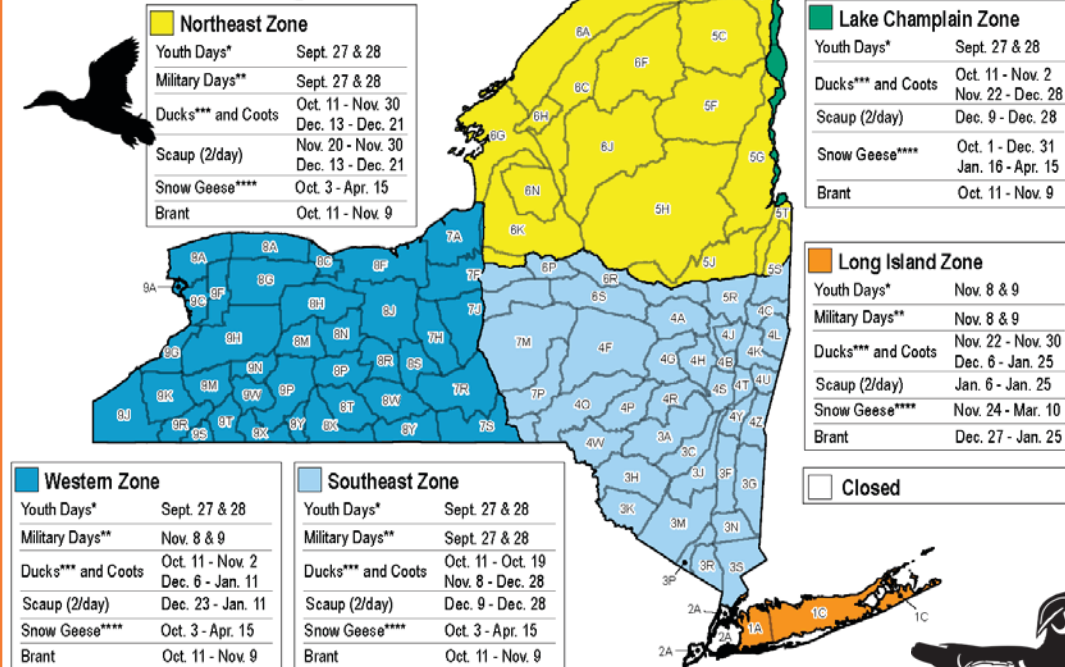
WOODCOCK

Oct. 1	Nov. 14
Closed	

CROW

Sept. 1	Mar. 31
(Fridays, Saturday, Sundays & Mondays Only)	
Closed	

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons



SNIPE, RAILS AND GALLINULES

Sept. 1	Nov. 9
Closed	

A migratory duck stamp is not required to hunt these three groups of birds.

[HIP registration](#) is required for each of these species except crow.



Bag Limits

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks ^a	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese ^b	See Map	3 times the daily limit
Snow Geese ^b	25	No Limit
Brant	1	3

- a. The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 3 pintail, 1 scaup (2 scaup are allowed during the 20 days specified above for each zone), 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, or 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). For all other duck species, the daily limit is no more than 6.
- b. Cackling geese and white fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

- * Youth days are additional days for junior hunters only. Young hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers, Canada geese, and brant on 2 special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for all species are the same as those allowed during the regular season for all species (excludes September Canada goose bag limits). Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, and the mentor may not carry a firearm. This prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the youth.
- ** Any person who meets the definition of active military or veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) can participate. Daily bag limits for all species during the military hunting days are the same as those allowed during the regular season for all species.
- *** Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the [special sea duck area](#), only.
- **** Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the [Conservation Order](#) that runs from Jan. 16 - Apr. 15 in all zones (except Long Island).