

2026–2027 Illinois Digest of HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

Waterfowl Dates and Information				
Species	Dates (Inclusive) and Zones	Hours	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Teal (early season)	5–13 Sept 2026 (all zones)	Sunrise to Sunset	6	18
Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	5 Sept–13 Nov 2026 (statewide)		25	75
Snipe (Wilson's snipe)	5 Sept–20 Dec 2026 (statewide)		8	24
Canada Geese (early season)	1–15 Sep 2026 (North and Central)	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to sunset	5	15
	1–15 Sep 2026 (South)		2	6
Youth Waterfowl	17–18 Oct 2026 (North)		Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons	Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons
	24–25 Oct 2026 (Central)			
	7 Nov 2026 and 30 Jan 2027 (South)			
Ducks (but see Scaup below)	24–25 Oct 2026 and 31 Oct–27 Dec 2026 (North)		6	18
	31 Oct–13 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–3 Jan 2027 (Central)			
	14 Nov–6 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–24 Jan 2027 (South)			
Mergansers	Same as ducks		5	15
Coots	Same as ducks		15	45
Scaup (Bluebills)	24–25 Oct 2026 and 31 Oct–12 Nov 2026 (North)		1	3
	31 Oct–14 Nov 2026 (Central)			
	14 Nov–28 Nov 2026 (South)			
Scaup (Bluebills)	13 Nov 2026–27 Dec 2026 (North)		2	6
	15 Nov 2026–13 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–3 Jan 2027 (Central)			
	29 Nov 2026–6 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–24 Jan 2027 (South)			
Canada Geese	24–25 Oct 2026 and 31 Oct 2026–26 Jan 2027 (North)		3	9
	31 Oct–13 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–31 Jan 2027 (Central)			
	14 Nov 2026–31 Jan 2027 (South)			
Light Geese (Snow/Ross's Geese)	24–25 Oct 2026 and 31 Oct 2026–26 Jan 2027 (North)		20	Unlimited
	31 Oct–13 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–31 Jan 2027 (Central)			
	14 Nov 2026–31 Jan 2027 (South)			
Brant	Same as light geese		1	3
White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies)	31 Oct 2026–26 Jan 2027 (North)		2	6
	31 Oct–13 Dec 2026 and 19 Dec 2026–31 Jan 2027 (Central)			
	14 Nov 2026–31 Jan 2027 (South)			
Conservation Order Light Geese (Snow/Ross's Geese)	27 Jan–30 Apr 2027 (North)	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset	Unlimited	Unlimited
	1 Feb–30 Apr 2027 (Central and South)			



Basic daily limit is 6 ducks of any species. However, daily limit can consist of no more than the following: 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 can be hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 1 scaup for the first 15 days in each zone, 2 scaup for the remaining 45 days in each zone, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 3 pintails and 1 mottled duck. Possession limit for ducks is three times the daily limit by species and sex. Mergansers do not count toward the daily limit of ducks. The daily limit is 5 mergansers, but only 2 can be hooded mergansers. Please refer to the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest for a complete listing of species, dates and limits. Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois DNR-ORC-HY26-27 • 160,000 • 07/26

Deer and Turkey Season Dates and Limits						
Season	Dates (Inclusive)			Hours	Limit	
Archery Deer (Counties with firearm season and west of Route 47 in Kane County)	1 Oct–19 Nov and 23 Nov–2 Dec 2026 and 7 Dec 2026–17 Jan 2027			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	One deer per archery permit	
Archery Deer (Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane [east of route 47] Counties)	1 Oct 2026–17 Jan 2027				One deer per archery permit	
Youth Firearm Deer	10–12 Oct 2026				One deer per youth permit	
Firearm Deer	20–22 Nov and 3–6 Dec 2026				One deer per firearm permit	
Muzzleloader Deer	11–13 Dec 2026				One deer per muzzleloader permit	
Special CWD Deer	31 Dec 2026–3 Jan 2027 and 15–17 Jan 2027				One deer per valid permit	
Late Winter Antlerless Deer	31 Dec 2026–3 Jan 2027 and 15–17 Jan 2027				One antlerless-only deer per valid permit	
Youth Turkey (1 permit per year)	27–28 Mar and 3–4 Apr 2027			½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits	
Spring Turkey (shotgun and archery)	Segment	North	South	½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3 spring permits	
	1	12–16 Apr	5–9 Apr			
	2	17–22 Apr	10–15 Apr			
	3	23–28 Apr	16–21 Apr			
	4	29 Apr–5 May	22–28 Apr			
	5	6–13 May	29 Apr–6 May			
Fall Turkey (Shotgun)	24 Oct–1 Nov 2026			½ hour before sunrise to sunset	One either—sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 fall turkey shotgun permits	
Fall Turkey (Archery)	1 Oct 2026–17 Jan 2027 (Closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting)			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	One either—sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 fall turkey archery permits	
Upland and Small Game Season Dates and Limits Information						
Species	Dates (Inclusive)			Hours	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Squirrels (gray and fox)	1 Aug 2026–15 Feb 2027 (Closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting)			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	10
Doves (mourning & white-winged)	1 Sep–14 Nov and 26 Dec 2026–9 Jan 2027			Sunrise to Sunset	15	45
Woodcock	17 Oct–30 Nov 2026			Sunrise to Sunset	3	9
Crow	28 Oct 2026–28 Feb 2027			½ hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	No Limit
Pheasant (males only)	7 Nov 2026–8 Jan 2027 (North zone) 7 Nov 2026–15 Jan 2027 (South zone)			Sunrise to Sunset	2	6
Quail (Bobwhite)	Same as Pheasants				8	20
Hungarian Partridge	Same as Pheasants & Quail				2	6
Rabbits (cottontail and swamp)	7 Nov 2026–15 Feb 2027				4	10

Please refer to the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for complete species seasons, limits, and specific regulations.

2026-2027 Hunting Timeline

Animal	26-Aug	26-Sep	26-Oct	26-Nov	26-Dec	27-Jan	27-Feb	27-Mar	27-Apr	27-May	27-Jun	27-Jul
Coyote/Striped Skunk				Closed 20-22	Closed 3-6							
Woodchuck				Closed 20-22	Closed 3-6			Ends 31			Opens 1	
Squirrels	Opens 1			Closed 20-22	Closed 3-6		Ends 15					
Doves		See card front for specific dates										
Canada Geese		See card back for specific dates										
Snipe (Wilson's Snipe)		Opens 5			Ends 20							
Rails		Opens 5		Ends 13								
Teal		5-13										
Deer			See card front for specific dates									
Turkey			See card front for specific dates					See card front for specific dates				
Ducks/Mergansers/Coots			See card back for specific dates									
Light Geese/Brant			See card back for specific dates									
White-fronted Geese			See card back for specific dates									
Crow			Opens 28				Ends 28					
Woodcock			Opens 17	Ends 30								
Rabbits				Opens 7			Ends 15					
Pheasant/Quail/Partridge				Opens 7		Ends 8 (N) Ends 15 (S)						
Bobcat/Red Fox*/Opossum/ Raccoon				Opens 10 Closed 20-22	Closed 3-6		Ends 15					
Conservation Order Light Geese						See card back for specific dates						

Trapping Timeline

Woodchuck		Ends 30									Opens 1	
Badger/Bobcat/Coyote/ Red Fox*/Mink/Muskrat/ Opossum/Raccoon Striped Skunk/Weasels				Opens 10			Ends 15					
Beaver/River Otter				Opens 10				Ends 31				

***Effective immediately, gray fox hunting and trapping seasons are closed. See pg. 43 in the full Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest for more information.**