

Migratory Bird Hunting Digest 2009

Dove, Rail, Snipe, Teal and Woodcock



Mourning dove

JIM RATHERT



Serving nature and you™

Missouri Department of Conservation

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New mentoring option available for apprentice hunters

To help introduce adults to hunting, the Conservation Department now allows hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified to hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- first purchase the new Apprentice Hunter Authorization for \$10 wherever permits are sold
- then purchase the required permits and stamps for the season they want to hunt; see next page.
- hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed hunter 18 years old or older who is hunter-education certified or was born before Jan. 1, 1967. The mentor must have a filled or unfilled permit for the prescribed season.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization allows the holder to purchase firearms permits throughout the permit year, and it can be purchased for two permit years. After the second year, the apprentice hunter will be required to become hunter-education certified if he or she wants to continue hunting on any firearms permit. Before next year's migratory bird season, encourage your apprentices to attend a hunter-education class or take the new online course. Information is available at mdc.mo.gov/8821.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess and transport doves, rails, snipe, teal and woodcock in Missouri, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) a **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of:**

- Every teal hunter age 16 and over (Dove, rail, snipe and woodcock hunters do not need this stamp.)

To be valid, the federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. The stamps are available for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and under do not need to purchase permits to hunt doves, rails, snipe, teal and woodcock in Missouri. However, they must either be in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter, or have in their possession a valid Hunter Education Certificate Card while hunting.

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri small game hunting permits and the *Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit*:

- over the counter from any permit vendor
- by telephone anytime at (800) 392-4115²
- online anytime at www.wildlifelicenses.com/mo²

Purchase the federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved Hunter Education program and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permit.

²Credit card and \$2 per person surcharge required for phone and online purchase.

Higher Daily Bag Limit and Possession Limit for Doves in 2009

Dove hunting regulations are based upon information from banding programs and roadside, harvest and wing collection surveys. This information is used to select one of three available options set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 22 doves a day, 15 doves a day or 8 doves a day. Each option allows for 70 days of hunting. For 2009, the combined daily bag limit is 15, with a combined possession limit of 30. All three dove species count toward daily and possession limits.

Along with mourning doves, Eurasian collared-doves and white-winged doves are legal to hunt. Allowing hunting for these three species maintains the integrity of mourning dove populations and provides more hunting opportunities.

Dove Distributions and Habitats

Mourning doves are found in every county in Missouri, with greatest densities occurring in southeastern counties. The other two dove species have expanded their ranges into Missouri. White-winged doves, native to the southern United States, are found statewide. Eurasian collared-doves have been documented statewide, although their greatest concentrations are in the southeast. Predictions about dove distributions and numbers are difficult to make prior to the hunting season because dove migration depends upon the weather and food availability.

Doves benefit from cultivated areas and are especially abundant in fields, orchards and weedy areas. Preferred foods include corn, sunflower seeds and small grains. Doves also eat seeds from pigweed, crotons, panic grasses, foxtails and ragweed, but sunflowers seem to be the most dependable lure crop.

DOVE HUNTING ON PUBLIC LAND

Last year around 3,900 acres on almost 640 fields on 77 conservation areas were actively managed for doves. Managed dove hunting fields are planted in sunflowers, wheat, millet, buckwheat, corn or a combination of the above. Each field provides a different type of hunting experience.

To locate dove fields, contact the regional office in the area you want to hunt. Maps of areas that have dove fields are available from the Department's website at www.mdc.mo.gov/18183.

REMEMBER: Keep our public hunting areas litter free.

Be sure to pack out empty shotgun shells and shell boxes when you leave for the day.

REPORT YOUR BANDS www.reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates and distributions for a wide variety of migratory game birds.

To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at **www.reportband.gov** or call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.

Thanks for doing your part to help manage migratory game birds.

Hunters Provide Valuable Dove Data by Reporting Bands and Collecting Wings

Mourning doves are one of the most widely distributed and abundant birds in North America. They also are a popular game bird that is hunted in 38 of the lower 48 states. In fact, more mourning doves are harvested each year than all other migratory bird species combined. Up-to-date survival and harvest rate information is critical to understand the effects of annual hunting regulations on mourning dove populations, and banding is an important tool for obtaining this information.

Missouri, in cooperation with other dove hunting states, is participating in a nationwide mourning dove banding program. Information from this program will be used to determine mourning dove harvest rates, estimate annual survival, provide information regarding the geographical distribution of harvest, and develop and refine techniques for a future long-term dove banding program.

During 2003–2008, more than 14,000 mourning doves were banded in Missouri and almost 1,600 banded doves were reported by hunters. Captured doves are fitted with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band inscribed with an identification number, web address and toll free telephone number for band reporting.

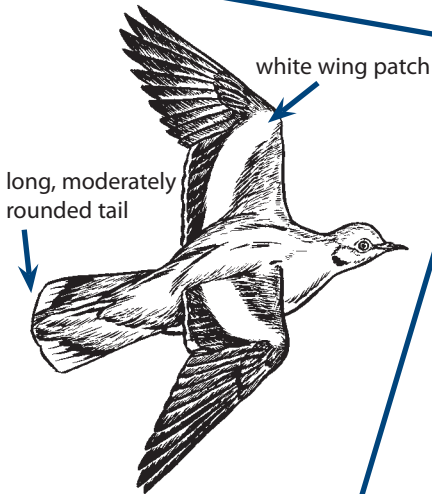
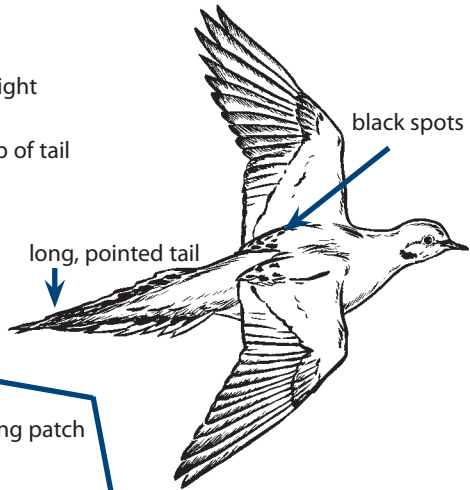
Hunters should examine their mourning doves for leg bands. By reporting banded doves, you directly help manage this important migratory bird resource. If you harvest a banded dove, follow the instructions above.

Missouri also is cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings (postage free) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hunters using high-use public areas may be asked to provide dove wings as part of the monitoring effort. Data from the wings, in combination with information from banded birds, will be used to help establish hunting regulations.

Know Your Doves

Mourning dove

- gray brown
- more rapid wing beat, erratic flight path than white-winged dove
- 12 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail
- call is a soft, inflected *cooAHoo* followed by several *coos*

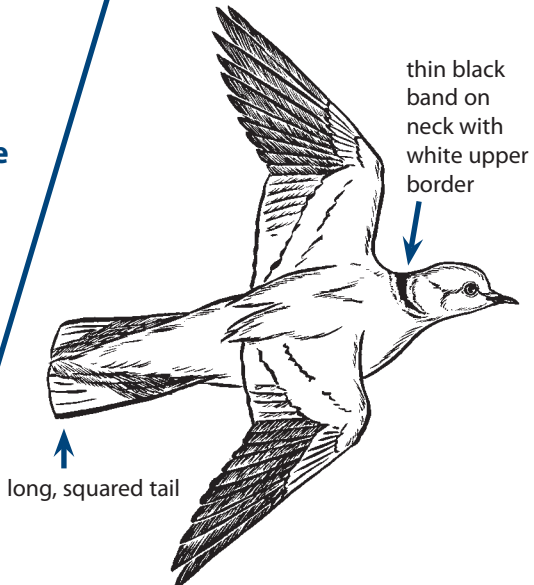


White-winged dove

- gray brown
- slightly larger than mourning dove
- call is a soft *hoo-hoo hoo-hoo* with the final note descending

Eurasian collared dove

- gray
- 15 inches from tip of beak to end of tail
- call is a three-part *coo* with similar tone to a domestic pigeon



Teal Status

Blue-winged teal are second only to mallards as the most numerous duck in North America. Though they breed primarily in the Prairie Pothole Region of the north-central United States and southern Canada, teal are highly mobile and will settle wherever wetland habitats are favorable. Compared to 2008, breeding habitat has greatly improved in 2009. North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota experienced their fourth, sixth and ninth wettest January-through-March periods on record, respectively. Removal of land from the Conservation Reserve Program remains a concern, however. These lands provide critical grasslands that teal need in conjunction with wetlands.

Blue-winged teal are among the earliest duck species to migrate during fall and the latest during spring. Their numbers typically peak in Missouri around mid-September following cold fronts, and most are far south of the state by the time the regular duck season opens. Teal stay in Missouri a relatively short time but may remain a few days longer in shallow, undisturbed wetlands with flooded vegetation. Teal eat the seeds, stems and leaves of wetland plants, such as smartweeds, millets, sedges and spikerushes. Aquatic invertebrates, such as insects and snails, are another important part of their diet. Blue-winged teal winter from the Gulf Coast of Mexico to northern South America—well south of most other ducks in the Mississippi Flyway. During 2008, the total estimated harvest of blue-winged teal in the Mississippi Flyway was about 627,000. Of those, about 35,500 were taken in Missouri, primarily during the September teal season.

Green-winged teal and cinnamon teal are legal during the September season. Green-winged teal may comprise up to 25 percent of the harvest during some years, and a higher proportion of green-winged teal are harvested during the latter part of the teal season. Cinnamon teal, a western species, are rare in Missouri. Collectively, teal are among the smallest duck species in North America and their fast, erratic flight can be a challenge to hunters. They also are considered prized table fare.

KNOW YOUR DUCKS

Other duck species, such as wood ducks, pintail and northern shovelers, are often present in Missouri during teal season. Hunters must identify their target before they shoot. In the fall, blue-winged teal are generally grayish brown overall and can be identified by their powder blue shoulder patch, small size and erratic flight. Males often exhibit a faint white facial crescent. For additional help with identifying ducks, visit www.flyways.us/ducks-at-a-distance.

Rail, Snipe and Woodcock Identification Tips

The following species also are legal to hunt during the migratory bird season. See page 16 for season dates and limits. Below are some descriptive details to help you find and identify these birds.

- **VIRGINIA RAIL**, 9 1/2 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail, forage in marshes and swamps for snails and earthworms. Adults have a black back with rusty wing patches, gray face, and reddish bill and legs. The underparts are cinnamon with heavily barred black and white flanks. Their call is a series of one- and two-syllable notes, *kik, kik, kik, kidik, kidik, kidik*.
- **SORA**, 9 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail, are common migrants that forage in marshes, swamps, wet pastures and flooded fields. Adults have a short, yellow bill and black face. Cheeks and breast are gray with black- and white-barred belly. The back is dark brown mixed with reddish tan and streaked with white. The call of this rail species is a loud, descending, nasal whinny.
- **WILSON'S (COMMON) SNIPE**, 11 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail, forage in marshes, swamps, wet pastures, crop stubble and drainage ditches. They have a long bill, plump body, and black- and white-streaked head. The back is brown and black with strong white streaks. When surprised, it takes off in a zigzag pattern and calls a harsh *scraip, scraip*.
- **AMERICAN WOODCOCK**, or timberdoodle, are 11 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail. They forage in young woodlands near water, moist pastures and forested floodplains. Most common in eastern Missouri along the Mississippi lowlands, they are distinguished by extremely long bills, round, plump bodies, short tails and legs, and large black eyes. The back is dark and the underparts buff. When flushed, its rounded, short wings make a whirring sound.

Put a little nature on your plate

Conservation Heritage license plates let you become a driving force for conservation in Missouri. For a \$25 annual donation to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, you can order the plate of your choice any time, regardless of your current license plate expiration date. The foundation will direct your donation to a project that protects our natural heritage, such as wildlife habitat improvements on public and private land.

You can pay the donation and pick up a Conservation Heritage License Plate Emblem Use Authorization Form at any permit vendor. For more details, call 1-800-227-1488 or go to www.mochf.org.

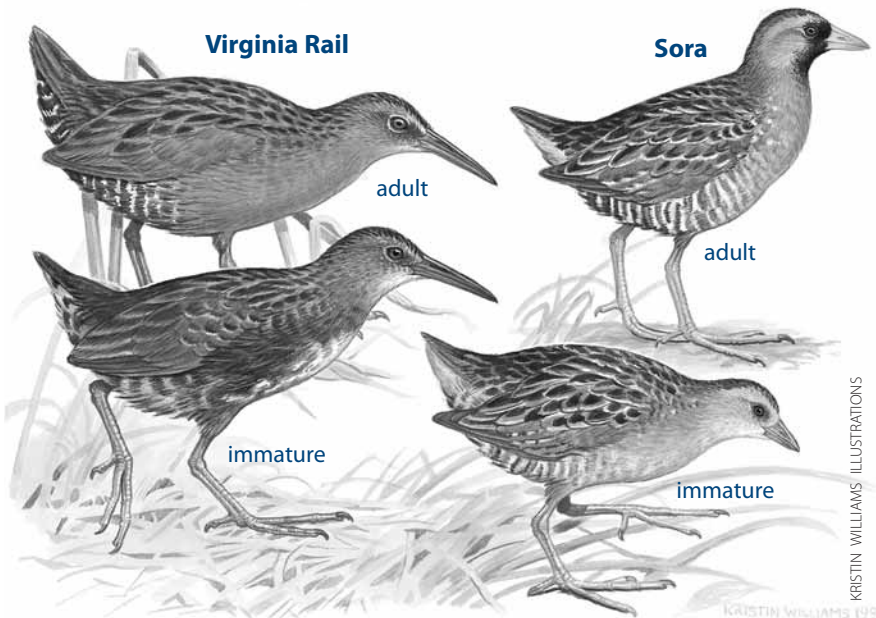


Investing in your Conservation Legacy



Wilson's Snipe

American Woodcock



Virginia Rail

adult

immature

Sora

adult

immature

KRISTIN WILLIAMS ILLUSTRATIONS

KRISTIN WILLIAMS 1997

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, transportation, shipment and storage of waterfowl and other migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. Refer to Title 50, Part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations at www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/.

RESTRICTIONS: No person shall take waterfowl and/or other migratory game birds:

- ▶ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- ▶ With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- ▶ From a sink box, a low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- ▶ From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. Paraplegic means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- ▶ From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- ▶ By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- ▶ Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- ▶ By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- ▶ By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is or was baited to be in violation. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area.

BE AN ETHICAL HUNTER

- ✔ **Respect Other Hunters**—Your enjoyment, and theirs, will result from mutual courtesy in the field.
- ✔ **Respect the Rules**—Know all state and federal regulations.
- ✔ **Respect Biology**—We share responsibility for migratory birds and their habitat throughout North America.
- ✔ **Respect the Hunting Tradition**—Setting up too close to other hunters is neither safe nor ethical.
- ✔ **Respect the Resource**—Use nontoxic shot. Be sure that birds are in range. Identify your target before shooting.

- ▶ While possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than shot approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This applies to hunting teal and other waterfowl only and for hunting on areas designed as nontoxic shot zones. (See page 12.)

CLOSED SEASON: No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS: No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, motel, etc.

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

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS: Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

TAGGING: No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature
2. The hunter's address
3. The total number of birds involved, by species
4. The dates such birds were killed

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

DRESSING: No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or

one full-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a commercial preservation facility.

SHIPMENT: No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

PERMITS AND STAMPS: Teal hunters 16 years of age and over must carry on their person a valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) signed in ink across the face by the user.

DUAL VIOLATION: Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

Shot Requirements

Shells possessed or used while hunting teal statewide, or doves, rails, snipe and woodcock as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As of June 2009, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- bismuth-tin
- iron (steel)
- iron-tungsten
- iron-tungsten-nickel
- tungsten-bronze (2 types)
- tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-polymer
- tungsten-tin-iron
- tungsten-tin-bismuth
- tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

Check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at www.fws.gov/policy/library/06-745.html for up-to-date information.

Tips for Shooting Nontoxic Shot

There are many types of nontoxic shot approved for use, and each has its own characteristics and benefits. Some types of nontoxic shot, such as steel, are harder, pattern tighter and have more pellets in each load than lead shot. Other nontoxic shot types are more expensive, but have characteristics similar to lead. Regardless of what type you choose, take the time to learn how it works with your shotgun before heading out to hunt.

Although most hunters are not effective at shooting beyond 20 yards, many underestimate distances and end up shooting at birds out of range.

Find your effective range with nontoxic shot by practicing shooting at a target 20 yards away. Once you have that down, increase the distance to your target in small increments. This will help you learn to judge distances and how far you can effectively shoot before you go hunting.

To help hunters become more efficient and ethical harvesters of waterfowl and other game using nontoxic ammunition, the Conservation Department offers “Effective Wingshooting, the CONSEP Way” throughout the state. These classes were developed based on peer-reviewed scientific research by the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Certified CONSEP instructors will teach participants how to choose the correct choke, load and shot size for the game they are hunting, how to estimate shooting distances, and how to effectively lead their target. For more information about CONSEP classes, go to www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/gamebird/wingshooting.htm.

Some Conservation Areas Require Nontoxic Shot Only

As of March 1, 2007, a nontoxic shot only regulation for all hunting with a shotgun began at 21 conservation areas. These areas have larger wetlands where sizeable numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds concentrate in the fall and spring.

The nontoxic shot regulation on these areas will eliminate the deposition of lead shot, ingestion of which can be fatal to all birds including doves and scavenging birds, such as eagles, that feed on waterfowl with lead shot in the carcass. Mounting evidence points to lead poisoning occurring in over 30 species of birds other than waterfowl.

The nontoxic shot rule will apply to all hunting on these areas with a shotgun including dove, turkey, quail, rabbit and squirrel. Since 1991, waterfowl hunters in Missouri have used nontoxic shot for all duck, goose and coot hunting.

Many of the 21 conservation areas included in the new nontoxic shot requirement offer good dove hunting, which can be a significant source of lead shot poisoning in birds. Good quality nontoxic shot shell alternatives for all gauges are available commercially at a reasonable cost. Modern steel and bismuth/tin shot shells are effective alternatives for taking birds.

Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for hunting on the following Department of Conservation areas:

- Black Island
- Bob Brown
- Columbia Bottom
- Cooley Lake
- Coon Island
- Duck Creek
- Eagle Bluffs
- Fountain Grove
- Four Rivers
- Grand Pass
- B.K. Leach Memorial
- Little Bean Marsh
- Little River
- Marais Temps Clair
- Montrose
- Nodaway Valley
- Otter Slough
- Schell-Osage
- Settle's Ford
- Ted Shanks
- Ten Mile Pond

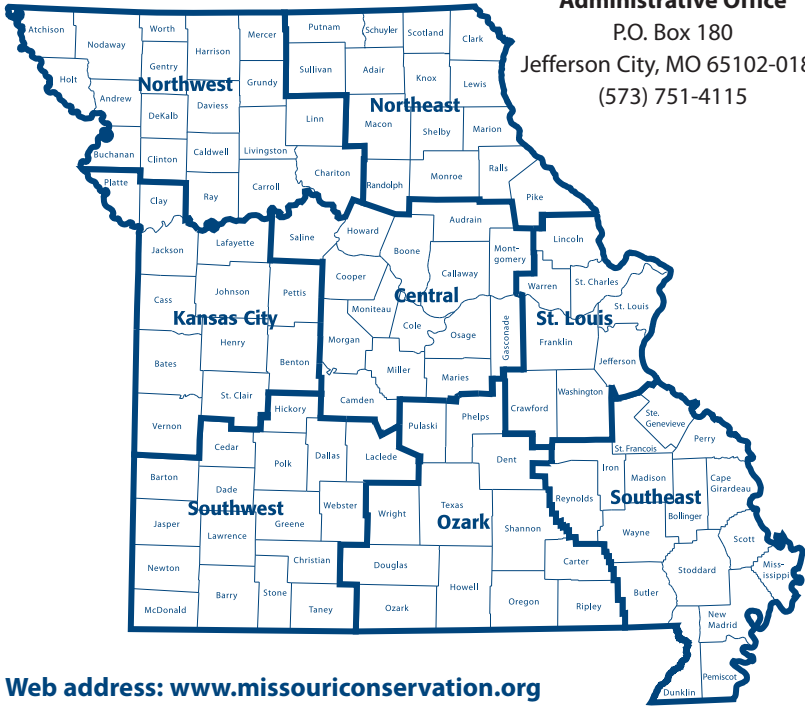
Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:38	7:05	6:51	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48
2	6:39	7:37	7:06	6:50	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48
3	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:48	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48
4	6:41	7:34	7:08	6:47	6:39	5:05	7:10	4:48
5	6:42	7:32	7:08	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:11	4:47
6	6:43	7:31	7:09	6:43	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47
7	6:43	7:29	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:40	6:43	5:01	7:14	4:47
9	6:45	7:26	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:00	7:15	4:48
10	6:46	7:24	7:13	6:37	6:45	4:59	7:16	4:48
11	6:47	7:23	7:14	6:36	6:47	4:59	7:16	4:48
12	6:48	7:21	7:15	6:35	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48
13	6:49	7:20	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48
14	6:50	7:18	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:48
15	6:50	7:16	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:19	4:49
16	6:51	7:15	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49
17	6:52	7:13	7:20	6:27	6:53	4:54		
18	6:53	7:12	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:53		
19	6:54	7:10	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53		
20	6:55	7:08	7:23	6:23	6:56	4:52		
21	6:56	7:07	7:24	6:22	6:57	4:52		
22	6:57	7:05	7:25	6:21	6:59	4:51		
23	6:58	7:04	7:26	6:19	7:00	4:51		
24	6:58	7:02	7:27	6:18	7:01	4:50		
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:02	4:50		
26	7:00	6:59	7:29	6:16	7:03	4:49		
27	7:01	6:57	7:30	6:14	7:04	4:49		
28	7:02	6:56	7:31	6:13	7:05	4:49		
29	7:03	6:54	7:32	6:12	7:06	4:48		
30	7:04	6:53	7:34	6:11	7:07	4:48		
31			7:35	6:10				

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 have been converted to Daylight-Savings Time. To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory web site: aa.usno.navy.mil.

Missouri Department of Conservation Offices



Administrative Office

P.O. Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 (573) 751-4115

Web address: www.missouriconservation.org

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 (816) 271-3100

Kansas City Region

3424 N.W. Duncan Road
 Blue Springs, MO 64015
 (816) 655-6250

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 (417) 895-6880

Central Region

1907 Hillcrest Drive
 Columbia, MO 65201
 (573) 884-6861

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 (417) 256-7161

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 (660) 785-2420

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 (636) 441-4554

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO
 63701
 (573) 290-5730

2009 HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
MOURNING, COLLARED and WHITE-WINGED DOVES	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset‡	NEW! 15*	NEW! 30*
WILSON'S (COMMON) SNIPE	Sept. 1–Dec.16		8	16
SORA and VIRGINIA RAIL	Sept. 1–Nov. 9		25*	25*
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	Oct. 15–Nov. 28		3	6
BLUE-WINGED, GREEN-WINGED and CINNAMON TEAL	Sept. 12–Sept. 27		Sunrise to Sunset‡	4*

*Combined total of all species.

‡See page 14 for sunrise/sunset table.

HARVEST SURVEY NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE

When you purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, the vendor asks you a series of questions about your migratory bird hunting activities for the previous year. The answers you provide place you in a category with other migratory bird hunters by type and amount of hunting activity. This allows the Conservation Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the cooperative effort known as the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, to use harvest surveys to sample hunters from each category. This survey information is extremely important and is considered when establishing migratory bird hunting seasons each year. Your cooperation in supplying this information is vital. If you receive a survey, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. All the information you provide is important. By completing the survey, you are doing your part to help manage migratory birds.