

2011-2012 Season Dates and Limits Information

SMALL GAME			Daily Limit	Possession Limit
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS		
Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 5, 2011 - Jan. 8, 2012 (North) Nov. 5, 2011 - Jan. 22, 2012 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 ^a
Cock Pheasant	Nov. 5, 2011 - Jan. 8, 2012 (North) Nov. 5, 2011 - Jan. 15, 2012 (South)		2	6 ^a
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 ^a
Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20 ^a
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1, 2011 - Feb. 15, 2012 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18-20 and Dec. 1-4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	5	10 ^a
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012. Closed Nov. 18-20; Dec. 1-4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Sunrise to sunset	No Limit	

DEER & TURKEY			
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader, & Shotgun)	Nov. 18-20; Dec. 1-4, 2011	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit ^t
Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 9-11, 2011 (also allowed Dec. 1-4)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit ^t
Special CWD Deer Season	Dec. 29, 2011 - Jan. 1, 2012 and Jan. 13-15, 2012		One deer per valid deer permit ^g
Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader, & Shotgun)	Dec. 29, 2011 - Jan. 1, 2012 and Jan. 13-15, 2012		One antlerless deer per permit
Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 17, Nov. 21-30, Dec. 5, 2011 - Jan. 15, 2012		One deer per archery permit ^f
Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2011 - Jan. 15, 2012		
Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 8-9, 2011		One deer
Youth Turkey Season	Mar. 31 - April 1, 2012 (South); April 7-8, 2012 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen
Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 9 - May 10, 2012 ^b (South) April 16 - May 17, 2012 ^b (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 22 - Oct. 30, 2011	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One either sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1, 2011 - Jan. 15, 2012, except closed during Firearm Deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One either sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS			Daily Limit	Possession Limit
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS		
Dove ^c	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31; Nov. 5-13, 2011	Sunrise to sunset	15 ^c	30 ^c
Teal	Sept. 3-18, 2011	Sunrise to sunset	4	8
Early Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15, 2011	North and Central	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5
		South	2	4
Rail (Sora & Virginia Only.)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11, 2011	Sunrise to sunset	25	25
Common Snipe	Sept. 3 - Dec. 18, 2011	Sunrise to sunset	8	16
Woodcock	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28, 2011	Sunrise to sunset	3	6
Crow	Oct. 28, 2011 - Feb. 28, 2012	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	

The season dates for Migratory Waterfowl seasons that occur after October 1 will be available in September. See 2011-2012 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.

2011-2012 Season Dates and Limits Information (continued)

FURBEARERS – Hunting

SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2011 - Feb. 10, 2012 (North); Nov. 10, 2011 - Feb. 15, 2012 (South) Closed Nov. 18-19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) Opens at sunrise ^d	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012 (Statewide). Closed Nov. 18-19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 10 Opens at sunrise ^d	No Limit
Coyote ^e and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide). Closed Nov. 18-19 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1-3 and through 5 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^{d,e}	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours during Nov. 10, 2011 thru Feb. 15, 2012 ^{d,e}	No Limit

FURBEARERS – Trapping

SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2011 - Jan. 20, 2012 (North) Nov. 10, 2011 - Jan. 25, 2012 (South)	Unrestricted except opening days start at sunrise and closing days end at sunset	No Limit except for badger, which is limited to two per season in the north zone and one per season in the south zone
Beaver	Nov. 5, 2011 - March 31, 2012 (North) Nov. 10, 2011 - March 31, 2012 (South)		
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30, 2011 (Statewide)		

^a On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

^b **South** — 1st season—April 9-13; 2nd season—April 14-19; 3rd season—April 20-25; 4th season—April 26-May 2; 5th season—May 3-10

North — 1st season—April 16-20; 2nd season—April 21-26; 3rd season—April 27-May 2; 4th season—May 3-9; 5th season—May 10-17

^c The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-colored doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-colored doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

^d During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^e Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^f No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader, and youth firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

^g Antlered Deer bag limit does not apply to this season.

TRAPPER EDUCATION CLASSES SCHEDULED

Carlyle Lake, Vandalia – September 16-18, 2011. Call 618-637-9061

Marshall-Putnam County Fairgrounds, Henry – October 1, 2011. Call 618-637-9061

Xxxxxxxx, Xxxxxxxx – Month 00, 2011. Call 000-000-0000

Trapper Education On-line Study

First-time trappers under the age of 18 are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. Part of this requirement can now be met by completing an on-line course at www.trappered.com. Students must then complete a half day of hands-on training where they will hone skills like making sets and preparing furs for market. Schedules for instructor-taught courses can be accessed by calling 1-800-832-2599 (Ameritech Relay 1-800-526-0844) or by visiting www.dnr.state.il.us/safety.



Season Dates – Rules of Thumb

Many hunters need to plan vacations and hunting trips in advance of the annual distribution of the *Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations*. For such planning purposes, we are providing the general rules of thumb used for setting annual season dates. Although there are no guarantees that these season dates will be used in future years, this is the best information available for those who must make plans well in advance of announcements of official season dates.

Rabbit – North – First Saturday in November through Jan. 8.
South – First Saturday in November through Jan. 22.

Pheasant, Quail and Partridge –

North – First Saturday in November through Jan. 8.
South – First Saturday in November through Jan. 15.

Squirrel – Aug. 1 - Feb. 15, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Woodchuck – June 1 - March 31, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Deer –

Archery – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer season except in Cook, DuPage, Kane [that portion east of Hwy. 47] and Lake counties).

Firearm – The Friday, Saturday & Sunday immediately before Thanksgiving and the first four-day weekend (Thursday – Sunday) after Thanksgiving.

Youth Firearm Deer Season – The weekend preceding the observance of Columbus Day.

Muzzleloader – The third three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) following Thanksgiving. Hunting also allowed during the second firearm deer season.

Late Winter Antlerless Deer and Special CWD Deer – The first Thursday-Sunday after Dec. 25; and the first Friday-Sunday after Jan. 11.

Turkey –

Spring –

Youth Turkey – the weekend 9 days prior to the opening of each zone's first season.

South Zone: begins on the first Monday in April after April 2 and ends 32 days later. Lengths for each season (in days) are 5, 6, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

North Zone: same as South Zone except one week later.

Fall –

Fall Gun – the nine days beginning on Saturday of the second complete three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday) after Oct. 11.

Fall Archery – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer seasons).

Early Canada Goose – Sept. 1-15

Teal – 9 or 16 days, opens on 1st or 2nd Saturday in Sept.

Rail – Opens with teal season and runs for 70 days.

Snipe – Opens with teal season and runs for 107 days.

Woodcock – The 45 days beginning on the third Saturday in October.

Furbearer Hunting and Trapping: Season dates listed for the 2011-2012 season will be used as guidelines.

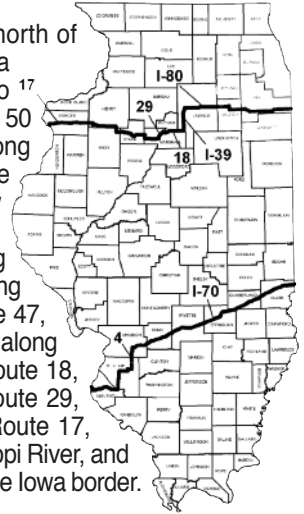
Crow – Oct 28 - Feb. 28.

Dove – Split season opens September 1 – late October; reopens with upland game season for about 9-16 days, depending on gun deer season dates.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

NOTE: Waterfowl Zones may change in 2011. Check the DNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov for updates.

North Zone – That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Peotone-Beecher Road to Illinois Route 50, south along Illinois Route 50 to Wilmington-Peotone Road, west along Wilmington-Peotone Road to Illinois Route 53, north along Illinois Route 53 to New River Road, northwest along New River Road to Interstate Highway 55, south along I-55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff - Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to I-80, west along I-80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

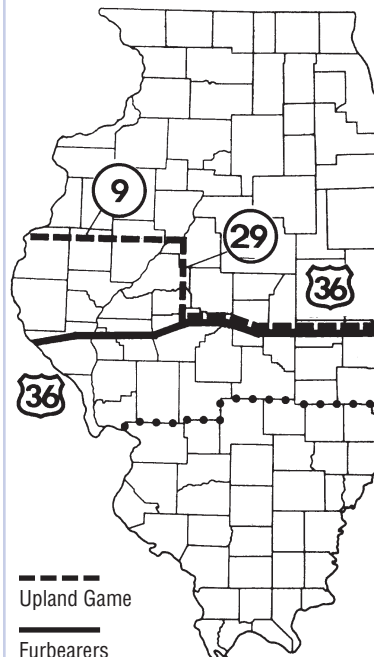


Central Zone – That portion of the state south of the North Zone to a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate Highway 70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 156, west along Illinois Route 156 to A Road, north and west on A Road to Levee Road, north on Levee Road to the south shore of New Fountain Creek, west along the south shore of New Fountain Creek to the Mississippi River, and due west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Zone – The remainder of Illinois.

Note: Northeast Canada goose zone has been eliminated.

Upland Game, Furbearers & Turkey Zones



Upland Game:

Cock Pheasant, Quail, Hungarian Partridge, Rabbit: Divided by U.S. Route 36 from the Indiana state line to Springfield, Illinois Route 29 from Springfield to Pekin, and Illinois Route 9 from Pekin to Dallas City, then due west to the Mississippi River.

Furbearers:

hunting (Raccoon, Opossum) and trapping: Divided by U.S. Route 36.

Turkey:

North Zone includes that portion of Illinois north of Crawford, Jasper, Effingham, Fayette, Bond and Madison counties. South Zone includes the remainder of the state.