

2017-2018 Season Dates and Limits Information

| Small Game | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | DAILY LIMIT | POSSESSION LIMIT |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|-------------|------------------|
| | Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp) | Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 15, 2018 (Statewide) | Sunrise to sunset | 4 | 10 ^a |
| | Cock Pheasant | Nov. 4, 2017 - Jan. 8, 2018 (North) Nov. 4 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018 (South) | | 2 | 6 ^a |
| | Hungarian (Gray) Partridge | | | 2 | 6 ^a |
| | Quail (Bobwhite) | | | 8 | 20 ^a |
| | Squirrel (Fox and Gray) | Aug. 1, 2017 - Feb. 15, 2018 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 17 - 19 and Nov 30 - Dec.3 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, 2017 - March 31, 2018 Closed Nov. 17 - 19 and Nov 30 - Dec.3 in counties open for firearm deer hunting | No Limit | | | |

| Deer & Turkey | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | LIMIT |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun) | Nov. 17 - 19; Nov 30 - Dec. 3, 2017 | 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset | One deer per firearm permit ^f |
| | Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only) | Dec. 8 - 10, 2017(also allowed Nov 30 - Dec. 3) | | One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit ^f |
| | Special CWD Deer Season | Dec. 28 - 31, 2017 and Jan. 12 - 14, 2018 | | One deer per valid deer permit ^g |
| | Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun) | | | One antlerless deer per permit |
| | Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County) | | | Oct. 1 - Nov. 16, Nov. 20 - Nov. 29, and Dec. 4, 2017 - Jan. 14, 2018 |
| | Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties) | Oct. 1, 2017 - Jan. 14, 2018 | | One deer |
| | Youth Firearm Deer Season | Oct. 7 - 9, 2017 and Nov. 17 - 19, 2017 | | |
| | Youth Turkey Season (1 permit per year) | March 31 - April 1, 2018 and April 7 - 8, 2018 (Statewide) | 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. | One gobbler or bearded hen, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits |
| | Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery) | April 9 - May 10, 2018 ^b (South) April 16 - May 17, 2018 ^b (North) | 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset | One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3 |
| Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season) | Oct. 21 - 29, 2017 | One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 | | |
| Turkey (Fall Archery) | Oct. 1, 2017 - Jan. 14, 2018, 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 & Waterfowl | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | DAILY LIMIT | POSSESSION LIMIT |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | Dove ^c | Sept. 1 - Nov. 14, 2017; Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 9, 2018 | Sunrise to sunset | 15 ^c | 45 ^c |
| | Rail (Sora & Virginia only) | Sept. 9 - Nov. 17, 2017 | | 25 | 75 |
| | Common Snipe | Sept. 9 - Dec. 24, 2017 | | 8 | 24 |
| | Woodcock | Oct. 21 - Dec. 4, 2017 | | 3 | 9 |
| | Crow | Oct. 28, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018 | 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset | No Limit | |
| | Teal | Sept. 9 - 24, 2017 (All Zones) | Sunrise to sunset | 6 | 18 |
| | Early Canada Geese | Sept. 1 - 15, 2017 | (North and Central) | 5 | 15 |
| | | | (So. Central and South) | 2 | 6 |
| | Youth waterfowl (see Special Regulations) | Oct. 14 - 15, 2017 (North) Oct. 21 - 22, 2017 (Central) Nov. 4 - 5, 2017 (South Central) Nov. 11 - 12, 2017 (South) | 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset | All species open, see bag limits for each* | |
| | Ducks | Oct. 21 - Dec. 19, 2017 (North) Oct. 28 - Dec. 26, 2017 (Central) | | 6* | 18* |
| | Mergansers | Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 9, 2018 (So. Central) | | 5* | 15* |
| | Coots | Nov. 23, 2017 - Jan. 21, 2018 (South) | | 15 | 45 |
| | Canada Geese | Oct. 21, 2017 - Jan. 18, 2018 (North) Oct. 28 - Nov 5, 2017 and Nov. 12, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (Central) | | 2 | 6 |
| Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (So. Central) Nov. 23, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (South) | | | | | |
| Snow Geese (Snow/Blue and Ross' Geese) | Oct. 21, 2017 - Jan. 18, 2018 (North) Oct. 28, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (Central) Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (So. Central) | 20 | | Unlimited | |
| Brant | Nov. 23, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (South) | 1 | 3 | | |

2017-2018 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

| Waterfowl (Cont.) | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | DAILY BAG LIMIT | POSSESSION LIMIT |
|-------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies) | Oct. 23, 2017 - Jan. 18, 2018 (North) Nov. 5, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (Central) Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (So. Central) Nov. 23, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (South) | 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset | 2 | 6 |
| | Conservation Order Light Geese (see Special Regulations) | Jan. 19 - March 31, 2018 (North) Feb. 1 - March 31, 2018 (Central, So. Central and South) | 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset | Unlimited | Unlimited |

2017 – 2018 Illinois Waterfowl Season (please refer to the Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for more regulations)

***Bag Limit – DUCKS** – Bag limits on ducks are as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 2 black ducks and not more than 1 pintail and 1 mottled duck. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three (3) times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

Special Regulations

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days Regulations

1.) Youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property where they reside. No stamps are required for youths under 16. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older, even those hunting with a Youth License, unless exempt (see page 8). Hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and coots during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.

Conservation Order Light Goose Season Regulations (Spring Snow Goose Season)

1.) Unplugged shotguns may be used. There is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun. 2.) Electronic calling devices may be used. 3.) No federal duck stamp required. 4.) Illinois duck stamp and hunting license required.

| Furbearers – Hunting | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | HOURS | SPECIAL REGULATIONS |
|----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | Raccoon, Opossum, Fox (Red and Gray), and Bobcat | Nov. 10, 2017 - Feb. 15, 2018 Closed Nov. 17 through 6 p.m. Nov. 19 and closed Nov 30 through 6 p.m. Dec. 3 in counties open for firearm deer hunting | Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens 1/2 hour before sunrise ^d | Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited. |
| | Coyote and Striped Skunk | Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 17 through 6 p.m. Nov. 19 and closed Nov. 30 through 6 p.m. Dec. 3 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^{d,e} | 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2017 - March 15, 2018 ^{d,e} | |

| Furbearers – Trapping | SPECIES | DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES | LIMIT | SPECIAL REGULATIONS |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger and Bobcat | Nov. 10, 2017 - Feb. 15, 2018 | For badger, 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone; for bobcat, 1 per person per season. | Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited. |
| | Woodchuck (Groundhog) | June 1 - Sept. 30, 2017 (Statewide) | None | |
| | Beaver | Nov. 10, 2017 - March 31, 2018 | | |
| | River Otter | Nov. 10, 2017 - March 31, 2018 | 5 per person per season (statewide) | Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt. |

^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-collared 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-collared 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 two antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and 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

Aldersgate Church, Marion – Sept. 30, 2017. Call (217) 273-6453

Livingston County, Fairbury – Sept. 16, 2017. Call (815) 419-5204

Phillips Park Visitor Center, Aurora – Oct. 1, 2017. Call (630) 851-7119

Trapper Education

First-time trappers, born on or after Jan. 1, 1998, are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. This requirement can be met by completing an online study course at www.trapped.com, or completing a Trapper Education Class. Schedules for instructor-taught courses can be accessed by calling (800) 832-2599 Ameritech Relay (800) 526-0844 or at www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety. Residents 18 years of age and under are not required to complete a trapper education course if they purchase a Youth Trapping License and are supervised by a parent, grandparent, or guardian while trapping.