

2008-2009 Season Dates and Limits Information

SMALL GAME			Daily Limit	Possession Limit
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS		
Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 1, 2008 - Jan. 8, 2009 (North) Nov. 1, 2008 - Jan. 22, 2009 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 ^a
Cock Pheasant	Nov. 1, 2008 - Jan. 8, 2009 (North) Nov. 1, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009 (South)		2	6 ^a
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 ^a
Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20 ^a
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1 - Feb. 15, 2009 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21-23 and Dec. 4-7 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, 2008 - March 31, 2009. Closed Nov. 21-23; Dec. 4-7 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. 21-23; Dec. 4-7, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit ^f
Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 12-14, 2008 (also allowed Dec. 4-7)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit ^f
Special CWD Deer Season	Jan. 16-18, 2009		One deer per valid deer permit ^g
Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader, & Shotgun)	Jan. 16-18, 2009		One antlerless deer per permit
Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane Co.)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 20, Nov. 24 - Dec. 3, Dec. 8, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009		One deer per archery permit ^f
Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009		One deer
Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 11-12, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen
Youth Turkey Season	Mar. 28-29, 2009 (South); April 4-5, 2009 (North)		One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 6 - May 7, 2009 ^b (South) April 13 - May 14, 2009 ^b (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One turkey per permit, maximum of 2
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One turkey per permit, maximum of 2
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 20, Nov. 24 - Dec. 3, Dec. 8, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One turkey per permit, maximum of 2

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS					
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	
Dove ^c	Sept. 1 - Oct. 24; Nov. 1 - 16, 2008	Sunrise to sunset	15 ^e	30 ^e	
Teal	Sept. 6-21, 2008	Sunrise to sunset	4	8	
Early Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15, 2008	Northeast, North, Central	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5	10
		South		2	4
Rail (Sora & Virginia Only.)	Sept. 6 - Nov. 14, 2008	Sunrise to sunset	25	25	
Common Snipe	Sept. 6 - Dec. 21, 2008	Sunrise to sunset	8	16	
Woodcock	Oct. 18 - Dec. 1, 2008	Sunrise to sunset	3	6	
Crow	Oct. 28, 2008 - Feb. 28, 2009	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 2008-2009 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.

FURBEARERS – Hunting			
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2008 - Feb. 10, 2009 (North); Nov. 10, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2009 (South) Closed Nov. 21, 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4-6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 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, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009 (Statewide). Closed Nov. 21, 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4-6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 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. 21, 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4-6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 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, 2008-Feb. 15, 2009 ^{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, 2008 - Jan. 20, 2009 (North) Nov. 10, 2008 - Jan. 25, 2009 (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, 2008 - March 31, 2009 (North) Nov. 10, 2008 - March 31, 2009 (South)		
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30 (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 6-10: 2nd season—April 11-16: 3rd season—April 17-22: 4th season—April 23-29: 5th season—April 30-May 7

North – 1st season—April 13-17: 2nd season—April 18-23: 3rd season—April 24-29: 4th season—April 30 - May 6: 5th season—May 7-14

^c The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves, Eurasian collared doves, ringed turtle doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

^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 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 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.



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 Thursday after Jan. 10 (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 three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) beginning 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 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 Thursday after Jan. 10 (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.

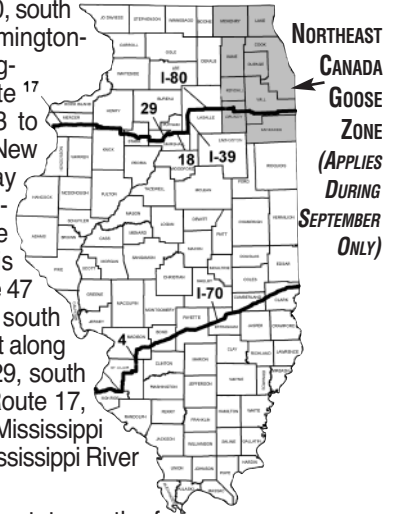
Furbearer Hunting and Trapping: Season dates listed for the 2007-2008 season will be used as guidelines.

Crow – Oct 28 - Feb. 28.

Dove – Split season opens September 1 – late October; re-opens with upland game season for about 9-16 days.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

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 17, 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.

Northeast Canada Goose Zone - Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties. This zone only applies during September.

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.