

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Getting HIP

*Your Role In Conserving
Migratory Birds
Through the Harvest
Information Program*





If you're planning on hunting any kind of migratory bird this season, you can make a difference for wildlife conservation just by getting ready for the season. By purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp along with your state license when required, you'll join the millions of hunters who have generated a total of more than \$500 million for habitat conservation projects since 1934 by buying these stamps. Your purchase of firearms and sporting ammunition also generates millions of additional dollars in excise taxes every year, money that is returned to states and used to conserve migratory birds throughout North America. And by taking one other easy step when you purchase your migratory bird license—registering for the Harvest Information Program (HIP)—you'll continue to play a vital role in protecting and sustaining our migratory bird populations.

What Is HIP?

HIP is a voluntary survey of selected migratory bird hunters that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and your state wildlife agency use to develop reliable estimates of the number of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country. These estimates, along with annual breeding and population surveys, give biologists the information they need to make sound decisions concerning the length and dates of future hunting seasons, bag limits, and other population management for migratory birds. All states except Hawaii have participated in the HIP program since the 1998 season.

What Does HIP Require of Hunters?

Compliance with HIP is easy. All you're required to do is identify yourself as a migratory bird hunter when you buy your license and provide your name, address and date of birth—something most hunters do anyway. If you hunt migratory birds in more than one state, you're required to provide this information in each state.



You'll also be asked to answer a few short questions about your hunting experience during *last year's* season that typically ask what species of migratory birds you hunted. You're not required to answer these questions, but they help the Service mail the right survey to you. For example, we mail dove harvest surveys to people who identify themselves as dove hunters, and most waterfowl harvest surveys are sent to hunters who usually hunt ducks and/or geese.

After you sign up with HIP, you'll be given a card, stamp or other proof of participation. You must carry this proof with you whenever you hunt migratory birds. If stopped by a game warden, you may be asked to provide this proof of participation along with your license.

What Happens After I Register for HIP?

Typically, you'll only be asked to register. At the beginning of the season, the Service selects a representative sample of hunters from among the millions registered for HIP and mails them a survey. If you're one of the few selected to answer this national harvest survey, you'll be asked to complete a detailed survey about your harvest during this year's season. Completion of this survey is voluntary.

You'll receive a hunting record form and will be asked to keep a record of the number of migratory birds you harvest during the season. A postage-paid envelope will be included so that you can return this form at the end of the season. Responses from hunters who choose to participate will be compiled, kept strictly confidential and will not be used for any other purpose. As soon as the survey is completed, the Service will destroy all hunter names and address records.

What Do Hunters Gain from HIP?

Hunters were concerned about wildlife conservation long before it was trendy to do so. They have a long history of taxing themselves, paying license fees, buying stamps—all to ensure the health and vigor of wildlife populations—hunted and non-hunted alike. As the challenges facing migratory bird populations continue to increase, it is essential to gather the best information possible about all factors affecting these populations. The Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, through the cooperation of hunters, will provide wildlife biologists with much of the facts they need to ensure that our migratory bird resources—and hunting tradition—will be around for future generations to enjoy.

How Will I Be Asked to Sign Up?

HIP sign-up procedures vary from state to state. You may be asked to provide information directly to your license retailer by filling out additional information on the license, or by filling out an additional short form, by calling a toll-free number or by registering over the Internet. Some states offer more than one method, and the methods they use may change in the future. If you aren't sure how to register, you may contact your state wildlife agency at the listed number for more information.



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State Wildlife Agencies

Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries	334/242 3469
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	907/465 4100
Arizona Department of Game and Fish	602/942 3000
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	501/223 6300
California Department of Fish and Game	916/653 7664
Colorado Division of Wildlife	303/297 1192
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	860/642 7239
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife	800/WETLAND (800/938 5263)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	850/488 5878
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	770/414 3333
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	800/635 7820
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	217/782 6384
Indiana Department of Natural Resources	800/WETLAND (800/938 5263)
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	515/281 4687
Kansas Division of Wildlife and Parks	785/296 2281
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	800/858 1549
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	225/765 2881
Maine Division of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	207/287 8000
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	410/260 8540
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	800/WETLAND (800/938 5263)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	517/373 1263
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	888 MINNDNR
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks	601/364 2000
Missouri Department of Conservation	573/751 4115
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	406/444 2535

State Wildlife Agencies

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	888/764 7343
Nevada Division of Wildlife	775/688 1500
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	603/271 3211
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife	609/292 2965
New Mexico Game and Fish Department	800/862 9310
New York Department of Environmental Conservation	888/4ASK HIP (888/427 5447)
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	919/733 3391
North Dakota Game and Fish Department	888/634 4798
Ohio Division of Wildlife	800/WILDLIFE (800/945 3543)
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	405/521 3852
Oregon Division of Wildlife	503/872 5260
Pennsylvania Game Commission	717/787 2084
Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife	401/783 4460
South Carolina Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division	803/734 3886
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	605/773 3485
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	615/781 6585
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	512/389 4766
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	801/538 4700 (or 800/WETLAND)
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department	802/241 3701
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	804/367 1000 (or 800/WETLAND)
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	360/902 2515
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources	304/558 2771
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	608/266 8204
Wyoming Game and Fish Department	307/777 4600

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Harvest Surveys Section
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<http://www.fws.gov>

