

# 2023-24 MAINE HUNTING QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Please reference the *Maine 2023-24 Summary of Hunting Laws* for more details, available at [mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws](http://mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws).



## LICENSES

To hunt in Maine, you need to have one of the 30+ hunting licenses available. These vary by category of game, equipment used, resident status, age, and other factors. Go to [mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com) to see which license type is right for you, and to read what the license allows, when it allows it, and what permits are included or need to be purchased separately.

## PERMITS

To hunt for certain game or with certain equipment, you need to buy a permit. For example, archery licenses allow year-round bow and arrow hunting for all legal game, except for deer during the muzzle-loading season. During that time, you also need a muzzleloading permit. And during the expanded archery season, you need to purchase extra deer permits.

Some permits are included in certain licenses. For example, the junior hunting license includes a bear permit, but non-resident licenses don't. These license-holders must buy regular or November (late-season) bear permits to hunt for bear during the firearm season on deer.

## STAMPS

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and up must purchase state waterfowl permits and federal duck stamps. 16-year-olds still hunting on a junior license may hunt on a youth day, but need a Federal duck stamp.

Migratory waterfowl permits are not required to hunt Crow, Woodcock, Common Snipe, Sora & Virginia Rails, or Gallinules. A pheasant permit is required to hunt pheasant in York and Cumberland counties.

## OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations. Caller identification protected. Rewards paid. Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.



## SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

### LEGAL HUNTING HOURS:

1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Exceptions: Migratory game birds, raccoons, and coyote.

### HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING

Hunter orange is defined as a daylight fluorescent orange color with a dominant wave length between 595 and 605 nanometers, excitation purity of at least 85% and luminance factor of at least 40%. A decal on an article of clothing that is otherwise solid hunter orange is permissible. Articles of hunter orange clothing must be in good and serviceable condition and visible from all sides.

*See hunting law book for details.*



### ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING

In the Maine woods, rarely will anyone be there to notice your ethical behavior, but the landowner and the hunters that follow will greatly appreciate it. Ethical behavior is vital to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep their property open for all to enjoy. So remember: always respect the rights of landowners, and please *ask first*.

### OUTDOOR PARTNERS LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

For \$15.00, you can become an Outdoor Partner and support the MDIFW landowner relations program, which works to preserve and enhance access, helps landowners with access issues, and promotes responsible, ethical sporting behavior.

Members also receive discounts from retail partners, discounted subscriptions, and day passes, as well as an Outdoor Partners decal and entry into a drawing to win one of six \$500 gift cards. You can join at any time – either as an add-on to your license purchase or at [mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners](http://mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners).



OUTDOOR PARTNERS

# 2023-24 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

## 2023-24 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

DEER	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Expanded Archery	Designated areas only	September 9, 2023	December 9, 2023	<b>1 Antlered Deer Per Year*</b> See exceptions on page 20
Regular Archery	All	September 30, 2023	October 27, 2023	
Youth Deer Hunt	All	October 20, 2023	October 21, 2023	
Maine Resident Only Day**	All	October 28, 2023		
Firearms Season	All	October 30, 2023	November 25, 2023	
Muzzleloader Statewide	All	November 27, 2023	December 2, 2023	
Muzzleloader	12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29	December 4, 2023	December 9, 2023	

BEAR	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Youth Bear Hunting Day	All	August 26, 2023		<b>2 Bears Per Year</b> 1 by hunting, 1 by trapping
General Hunting Season	All	August 28, 2023	November 25, 2023	
Hunting with Bait <i>Bait can be placed July 29, 2023</i>	All	August 28, 2023	September 23, 2023	
Bear Trapping	All	September 1, 2023	October 31, 2023	
Hunting with Dogs	All	September 11, 2023	October 27, 2023	

MOOSE BY PERMIT ONLY	WMDs***	SEASONS***		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Antlerless-Only	4A (Adaptive Unit Hunt)	October 16, 2023	October 21, 2023	<b>1 Moose Per Year</b> by either permittee or sub-permittee, a person may only harvest one moose regardless of how many permits they may be listed on.
		October 23, 2023	October 28, 2023	
		October 30, 2023	November 4, 2023	
		November 6, 2023	November 11, 2023****	
Bull-Only	1- 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 27, 28	September 25, 2023	September 30, 2023	
Bull-Only	1-15, 17-19, 27, 28	October 9, 2023	October 14, 2023	
Antlerless-Only	1-6, 8	October 23, 2023	October 28, 2023	

Permit application period: February - May of each year.

\*Only deer with antlers at least 3 inches long may be taken from October 28, 2023-December 9, 2023, except that antlerless deer may be taken in designated WMDs/subunits by hunters with Antlerless Deer Permits and expanded archery hunters with appropriate permits. Please see page 20 for more information on Antlerless Deer Permits.

\*\*A non-resident who owns 25 or more acres of land in Maine and leaves land open to hunting, holds a valid hunting license, and is not otherwise prohibited by law, may hunt deer on the Resident only day, anywhere in the state. A verification form must be completed and can be located on our website.

\*\*\*Moose hunting season dates and WMDs subject to change.

\*\*\*\*Hunters that are issued a moose permit for the Adaptive Unit/WMD 4A moose hunt who do not harvest a moose during the first week listed on their permit may hunt in their respective zone 11/6/2023-11/11/2023.

SPRING WILD TURKEY <i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION	
All Hunters	7 and 9-29	April 29, 2024	June 1, 2024	2 bearded Wild Turkeys*	
	1-6 and 8	April 29, 2024	June 1, 2024	1 bearded Wild Turkey*	
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Day		April 27, 2024		May take up to 2 bearded Wild Turkeys from WMDs that have a 2 bird limit.	

\*May take up to 2 turkeys for the spring season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are taken does not matter.

FALL WILD TURKEY <i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION	
General Hunting Season	15-17, 20-25	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	5 Wild Turkeys**	No more than two wild turkeys (either-sex, any age) may be harvested per permit holder per day, but cannot exceed the WMD bag limit.
	26	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	3 Wild Turkeys**	
	28	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	2 Wild Turkeys**	
	6-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 27 & 29	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	1 Wild Turkey**	
	1-5, 9			Closed to taking of Wild Turkeys	
Youth Fall Wild Turkey Day		September 16, 2023			

\*\*May take up to five wild turkeys for the fall season, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit, the order in which they are taken from a WMD does not matter.

UPLAND AND MIGRATORY BIRDS	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail	All	September 30, 2023	December 30, 2023	4	8
Pheasant	All	September 30, 2023	December 30, 2023	2	4
Woodcock	All				
Common Snipe	All				
Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, Long-Tailed Duck)		<b>More detailed season info on page 36.</b>			
Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)	All				
Crows	1-6	August 1, 2023 February 5, 2024	September 23, 2023 April 15, 2024	No Limit	
	7-29	August 1, 2023 January 22, 2024	September 23, 2023 March 30, 2024		

OTHER SPECIES	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Gray Squirrel	All	September 30, 2023	December 30, 2023	4	8
Gray Squirrel (Falconry)	All	September 30, 2023	February 28, 2024	4	8
	All	September 30, 2023	March 30, 2024		
Snowshoe Hare	Season on Island of Vinalhaven	September 30, 2023	February 28, 2024	4	8
Bobcat	All	December 1, 2023	February 21, 2024	No Limit	
Fox	All	October 16, 2023	February 28, 2024	No Limit	
Raccoon	All	October 2, 2023	December 30, 2023	No Limit	
Skunk, Opossum	All	October 16, 2023	December 30, 2023	No Limit	
Coyote	All	<b>During daylight hunting hours</b> No Closed Season for Hunting		No Limit	
		<b>Night hunting</b> December 16, 2023 - August 31, 2024			
Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel	All	No Closed Season			
Spruce Grouse, Lynx, Cottontail Rabbit		No Open Season for Hunting			

**Note:** Except for migratory game birds, there is no hunting season on any species of bird or animal which is not listed above. All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

This time chart is NOT the sunrise and sunset time table and has already been adjusted to display the actual legal hunting hours.

2023-24 LEGAL HUNTING HOURS												
DAY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01	5:27 - 7:42		6:43 - 5:54	6:22 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:34	6:25 - 5:13	5:42 - 5:53	5:45 - 7:33	4:54 - 8:11	4:22 - 8:45	4:23 - 8:55	4:52 - 8:31
02	5:28 - 7:41	6:04 - 6:44	6:44 - 5:52	6:23 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:35	6:24 - 5:14	5:40 - 5:55	5:43 - 7:35	4:53 - 8:12		4:24 - 8:54	4:53 - 8:29
03		6:05 - 6:42	6:46 - 5:51		6:43 - 4:36	6:23 - 5:16		5:41 - 7:36	4:51 - 8:13	4:21 - 8:46	4:25 - 8:54	4:54 - 8:28
04	5:31 - 7:37	6:06 - 6:40	6:47 - 5:50	6:26 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:37		5:37 - 5:57	5:39 - 7:37	4:50 - 8:15	4:21 - 8:47	4:25 - 8:54	
05	5:32 - 7:35	6:08 - 6:39		6:27 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:38	6:20 - 5:19	5:35 - 5:59	5:38 - 7:38		4:20 - 8:48	4:26 - 8:54	4:56 - 8:25
06	5:33 - 7:33	6:09 - 6:37	5:50 - 4:47	6:28 - 4:24	6:43 - 4:39	6:19 - 5:20	5:33 - 6:00	5:36 - 7:40	4:47 - 8:17	4:20 - 8:48	4:27 - 8:53	4:57 - 8:24
07	5:34 - 7:31	6:10 - 6:35	5:51 - 4:46	6:29 - 4:24		6:18 - 5:21	5:31 - 6:01		4:46 - 8:18	4:20 - 8:49		4:59 - 8:22
08	5:35 - 7:29		5:52 - 4:45	6:30 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:42	6:16 - 5:23	5:29 - 6:03	5:32 - 7:42	4:44 - 8:19	4:19 - 8:50	4:28 - 8:52	5:00 - 8:21
09	5:37 - 7:28	6:13 - 6:31	5:54 - 4:43	6:31 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:43	6:15 - 5:24	5:28 - 6:04	5:30 - 7:43	4:43 - 8:21		4:29 - 8:52	5:01 - 8:19
10		6:14 - 6:30	5:55 - 4:42		6:42 - 4:44	6:14 - 5:26		5:29 - 7:45	4:42 - 8:22	4:19 - 8:51	4:30 - 8:51	5:02 - 8:18
11	5:39 - 7:24	6:15 - 6:28	5:57 - 4:41	6:32 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:45		6:24 - 7:07	5:27 - 7:46	4:41 - 8:23	4:19 - 8:51	4:30 - 8:51	
12	5:40 - 7:22	6:16 - 6:26		6:33 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:46	6:11 - 5:29	6:22 - 7:08	5:25 - 7:47		4:19 - 8:52	4:31 - 8:50	5:04 - 8:15
13	5:41 - 7:20	6:18 - 6:24	5:59 - 4:39	6:34 - 4:24	6:40 - 4:47	6:09 - 5:30	6:20 - 7:09	5:23 - 7:49	4:38 - 8:25	4:19 - 8:52	4:32 - 8:49	5:06 - 8:13
14	5:42 - 7:18	6:19 - 6:23	6:01 - 4:38	6:35 - 4:24		6:08 - 5:31	6:18 - 7:11		4:37 - 8:26	4:18 - 8:53		5:07 - 8:12
15	5:44 - 7:16		6:02 - 4:37	6:36 - 4:25	6:39 - 4:50	6:06 - 5:33	6:17 - 7:12	5:20 - 7:51	4:36 - 8:28	4:18 - 8:53	4:34 - 8:48	5:08 - 8:10
16	5:45 - 7:14	6:22 - 6:19	6:03 - 4:36	6:36 - 4:25	6:39 - 4:51	6:05 - 5:34	6:15 - 7:13	5:18 - 7:52	4:35 - 8:29		4:35 - 8:47	5:09 - 8:09
17		6:23 - 6:17	6:05 - 4:35		6:38 - 4:52	6:03 - 5:36		5:16 - 7:54	4:34 - 8:30	4:19 - 8:54	4:36 - 8:46	5:10 - 8:07
18	5:47 - 7:11	6:24 - 6:16	6:06 - 4:34	6:38 - 4:26	6:38 - 4:54		6:11 - 7:16	5:15 - 7:55	4:33 - 8:31	4:19 - 8:54	4:37 - 8:46	
19	5:48 - 7:09	6:26 - 6:14		6:38 - 4:26	6:37 - 4:55	6:00 - 5:38	6:09 - 7:17	5:13 - 7:56		4:19 - 8:54	4:38 - 8:45	5:13 - 8:04
20	5:50 - 7:07	6:27 - 6:12	6:09 - 4:32	6:39 - 4:26	6:36 - 4:56	5:59 - 5:40	6:07 - 7:18	5:11 - 7:57	4:31 - 8:33	4:19 - 8:55	4:39 - 8:44	5:14 - 8:02
21	5:51 - 7:05	6:28 - 6:11	6:10 - 4:32	6:39 - 4:27		5:57 - 5:41	6:05 - 7:20		4:30 - 8:34	4:19 - 8:55		5:15 - 8:00
22	5:52 - 7:03		6:11 - 4:31	6:40 - 4:27	6:35 - 4:59	5:55 - 5:43	6:03 - 7:21	5:08 - 8:00	4:29 - 8:35	4:19 - 8:55	4:41 - 8:42	5:16 - 7:59
23	5:53 - 7:01	6:31 - 6:07	6:13 - 4:30	6:40 - 4:28	6:34 - 5:00	5:54 - 5:44	6:02 - 7:22	5:06 - 8:01	4:28 - 8:36		4:42 - 8:41	5:17 - 7:57
24		6:32 - 6:06	6:14 - 4:29		6:33 - 5:02	5:52 - 5:45		5:05 - 8:02	4:27 - 8:37	4:20 - 8:55	4:43 - 8:40	5:19 - 7:55
25	5:56 - 6:57	6:33 - 6:04	6:15 - 4:29	6:41 - 4:29	6:32 - 5:03		5:58 - 7:25	5:03 - 8:04	4:27 - 8:38	4:20 - 8:55	4:44 - 8:39	
26	5:57 - 6:55	6:35 - 6:03		6:42 - 4:30	6:31 - 5:04	5:49 - 5:48	5:56 - 7:26	5:02 - 8:05		4:21 - 8:55	4:45 - 8:38	5:21 - 7:52
27	5:58 - 6:54	6:36 - 6:01	6:18 - 4:28	6:42 - 4:30	6:30 - 5:06	5:47 - 5:49	5:54 - 7:27	5:00 - 8:06	4:25 - 8:40	4:21 - 8:55	4:46 - 8:37	5:22 - 7:50
28	5:59 - 6:52	6:37 - 6:00	6:19 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:31		5:45 - 5:51	5:52 - 7:28		4:24 - 8:41	4:22 - 8:55		5:23 - 7:48
29	6:00 - 6:50		6:20 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:32	6:28 - 5:09	5:44 - 5:52	5:50 - 7:30	4:57 - 8:09	4:24 - 8:42	4:22 - 8:55	4:48 - 8:34	5:24 - 7:46
30	6:02 - 6:48	6:40 - 5:57	6:21 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:33	6:27 - 5:10		5:49 - 7:31	4:56 - 8:10	4:23 - 8:43		4:49 - 8:33	5:26 - 7:45
31		6:42 - 5:55			6:26 - 5:11				4:23 - 8:44		4:50 - 8:32	5:27 - 7:43

\*Legal hunting hours are based on sunrise/sunset in Bangor, Maine (Eastern Standard Time).

Exceptions: Raccoon, Coyote, and Migratory Bird hunting (see separate legal hunting hours for these species).