



Bahamas National Trust

The Mission of the BNT

To conserve and protect the natural resources of The Bahamas, through stewardship and education for present and future generations.

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HUNTERS GUIDE FOR THE BAHAMAS

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HUNTERS GLOSSARY

Below are some words that hunters should familiarize themselves with.

Birth Rate	the number of animals born each year determined by breeding age, number of births per year, and how many born at one time.
Breeding Stock	mature adults needed for reproduction to maintain a species.
Conservation	wise use of resources.
Death Rate	the proportion of the number of deaths per year to the total population.
Protected Species	species protected by law for any reason.
Extinction	disappearance of a species.
Game	wildlife that may be hunted or trapped according to legal seasons and limits.
Habitat	an environment that provides everything wildlife needs to live: food, water, cover, space, and arrangement.
Harvest	removal of surplus wildlife.
Hunting	an outdoor recreational activity in which game is normally taken.
Introduced Species / Exotics	wildlife not native to the area / country.
Non-Game	wildlife not normally hunted.
Parasites	forms of life feeding on and in wildlife, such as ticks or worms.
Possession Limits / Bag Limits	numbers of wildlife that may legally be taken daily or in a season, or which one may have in one's possession.
Predators	animals which prey on other animals.
Preservation	non-use of resources.
Reserves	suitable habitat established for the purpose of increasing wildlife numbers and providing a safe haven for their existence.
Seasonal/ Methods/Limits	the time, way, and numbers in which game may be legally taken.
Succession	gradual changes to habitat.

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INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Bahamas allows hunting of certain species of birds as long as their populations are at sustainable levels. In order to be able to continue hunting, hunters must cooperate fully with the Ministry of the Environment in its efforts to manage hunting activities.

Hunters continue to play a pivotal role in the management of game species. The Bahamas National Trust works closely with is spearheaded by hunters who take part in White-crowned Pigeon surveys and banding programmes. In the past, we have had problems with abuses and lawlessness, but through the cooperative efforts of the Trust and hunters, these problems are now less common. Hunters can assist wildlife conservation activities by cooperating in management activities, conservation projects and data collection (e.g., wing surveys, information about hunts, areas hunted, number of birds observed etc.) and making donations to support BNT programmes.

In order to continue to enjoy hunting privileges, hunters are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations contained in the Wild Birds Protection Act. Special care must be taken to avoid shooting protected and/or endangered species.

Hunters should also participate in activities organized by the Ministry, including hunter meetings and hunter education programmes.

GAME WARDEN PROGRAMME

Every year the Minister appoints Game Wardens to assist in the enforcement of the laws and regulations that govern hunting. Over the years some of our game wardens have been hunters. Game Wardens are an extension of the Ministry into the various islands where hunting takes place. Game Wardens are fully authorized to carry out bag checks and to investigate any situation where he suspects that an offence may have been committed against the Wild Birds Protection Act. They work very closely with the police and greatly enhance our capacity to monitor what is taking place in the sport throughout The Bahamas. Hunters are advised to cooperate fully with the Game Wardens in the performance of their duties.

HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY

Everyone who uses and enjoys the outdoors has a duty to protect and improve their lands. There is far more to sportsmanship and hunter responsibility than just following the written rules for safe and legal hunting.

FIRST AID EMERGENCY MEASURES

Injury	Signs	Treatment
Broken Bones	Pain, tenderness, deformity, and possible bleeding.	Control bleeding first; care for shock; keep broken bone ends and adjacent joints from moving.
Burns	Degree: 1st – skin is red 2nd – skin is blistered 3rd – skin is charred	1st and 2nd degree with closed blisters-flush with cold water until pain stops, apply loose, moist dressing; care for shock, 2nd degree with open blisters and 3rd degree-apply loose, dry dressing; care for shock.
Cuts	Bleeding.	Apply pressure with a pad of clean cloth directly over severe bleeding, elevate the wound above the heart level and apply direct pressure. If needed, apply pressure on nearest artery (e.g., the inner side of the arm between the shoulder and elbow, or the upper leg where it joins the body).
Objects in eyes, ears, and nose	Local irritation, tearing, and wetting.	Eye: Don't rub. Lift upper eyelid and flush with water. If unsuccessful close both eyes and wrap with loose bandage. Get medical attention.
Shock	Pale, clammy skin; irregular breathing; fast, weak pulse.	Keep person lying down and maintain normal body temperature (98.6). Do not give fluids if victim is unconscious. Begin CPR if needed.
Unconsciousness	Victim is not awake, does not respond to external stimuli.	Treat for shock. Turn head to side in case of vomiting. Stand by to give artificial respiration if breathing stops. Never give liquids or foods to an unconscious person. Get medical attention.

A SUMMARY OF THE WILD ANIMALS (PROTECTION) ACT

1. Wild animal means any animal found living in a natural or feral state in The Bahamas.
2. No person shall, without written authority from the Minister:
 - (a) take or capture or attempt to take or capture any wild animal specified in the schedule.
 - (b) export, or attempt to export from The Bahamas, any wild animal.
3. Any person who contravenes the provisions of (2) above shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.
4. The Minister may from time to time by order amend the Schedule. Currently the schedule lists Wild Horses of Abaco (*Equus caballus*), Hutias

The following trees are protected trees in The Bahamas under the Conservation and Protection of the Physical Landscape of The Bahamas Act.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Beefwood/Blolly	<i>Guapira discolor</i>
Black Ebony/Bullwood	<i>Pera bumeliifolia</i>
Brasiletto	<i>Caesalpinia vesicaria</i>
Candlewood	<i>Gochnatia ilicifolia</i>
Caribbean Pine	<i>Pinus Caribea var. bahamensis</i>
Horseflesh	<i>Lysiloma sabicu</i>
Lignum Vitae	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>
Mahogany (Madeira)	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>
Rauwolfia	<i>Rauwolfia nitida</i>
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus bermudiana</i>
Silk Cotton	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>

In addition to protecting native trees, the Act also protects the environment by controlling activities such as mining, dredging, excavation and general land clearing. These activities are regulated by the Director of Physical Planning, who issues permits for appropriate activities under the Act.

Responsible hunters read and obey all hunting laws.

In The Bahamas there are several laws that pertain to wildlife. You can get a copy from either the Ministry of the Environment or the Bahamas National Trust.

Responsible hunters follow a hunter's code.

A responsible hunter makes fair and safe choices.

Written laws cannot cover all situations. This is why true sportsmen adopt their own hunter's code. This code is based on respect for what is safe and fair. For example, is it right to kill every one of the 15 quail in a covey?

As a hunter, you are part of a long and proud tradition of service to wildlife and conservation. You can help continue this work by reading your hunting regulations and understanding the need for game laws.

DON'T DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT

While most outdoor recreationists have a respect for the land, there are still those who, for whatever reason, continue to damage the environment. In areas where hunting takes place, after hunters have left, it is now common place to find the area littered with cardboard boxes, spent shells and other trash. This behavior is irresponsible and shows a lack of respect for the environment. It also displays a lack of concern for the communities who are left to deal with this untidy mess.

Responsible hunters respect the environment. Don't leave your spent shells and cartridges lying around to litter the environment. Take all trash back with you, and dispose of properly.

PUBLIC VIEW OF HUNTING

How people feel about wildlife and hunting is very important. Their feelings affect future laws and policies about hunting and land use. Some people are prepared to accept and support hunting, but there are some who feel that hunting is wrong.

Studies show a need to understand the feelings and ideas of all people. Try to see how your friends feel about hunting. Help people understand your feelings, too.

The laws and regulations are not designed to make life difficult but rather to protect and maintain wildlife stocks and to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of birds to sustain hunting activities for many years to come.

IRRESPONSIBLE HUNTING

Irresponsible hunters harm the image people have of hunters in general. Some examples of irresponsible actions are: unsafe use of firearms, lack of knowledge of hunting laws, and not respecting the prescribed bag limits.

There is never an excuse for not knowing hunting laws. Hunters who take game out of season or from areas where hunting is prohibited are *poachers*. *Poaching* is illegal.

Continued abuse of the bag limits and other hunting regulations will lead to the decimation of wild bird populations. To prevent this from happening, the Government may invoke restrictive measures which may include a ban on hunting altogether. Clearly then, it is in the best interest of hunters to be aware of, and comply with hunting regulations.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SHOOTING SAFETY

Prevention is the solution to hunting casualties. Every hunting accident that has occurred could have been prevented. Most hunting accidents happen as a result of people ignoring firearms safety rules. Prevention involves knowing and obeying those basic safety rules.

Responsible, knowledgeable and safe hunters will follow these simple safety rules:

1. Treat every firearm with the same respect due a loaded firearm.
2. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle. Carry your firearm safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot. Keep your finger **off** the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Identify your target and know what is beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
5. Unload firearms when not in use. Leave the actions open. Firearms should be carried empty in cases to and from shooting areas.
6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch or log, with a loaded only part of the year here. Hunting is allowed only for those

National Park System of the Bahamas with 25 parks



18. Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park

Created in 1958, this 112,640-acre park was the first of its kind in the world and is famous for its pristine beauty, outstanding anchorage and breathtaking marine environment. It became the first marine fishery reserve in the Caribbean.

19. Moriah Harbour Cay National Park

Located in a vital area between Little and Great Exuma, it encompasses pristine beaches, sand dunes, mangrove creeks and sea grass beds. These habitats are important as bird nesting areas, marine fish, conch and lobster nursery grounds, as well as excellent representation of Bahamian coastal Ecosystem.

20 & 21. Marine Farm and Hope House

Located in the North of Crooked island, these two sites are of historical interest.

22. Conception Island National Park

An important sanctuary for migratory birds, sea birds, and Green Turtles. This 2,100-acre park also has great historical importance, being one of the three islands in The Bahamas on which Christopher Columbus is known to have landed.

23. Little Inagua National Park

Remote inaccessible and with no fresh water, Little Inagua is by far the largest uninhabited island in the Wider Caribbean. Ocean currents flow through the Bahamas from the southeast to the northwest. As a result, Little Inagua is upstream of the rest of the country. Its surrounding waters contribute to the supply of fisheries eggs, larvae, and sub-adults that are swept into other parts of the Bahamian marine territory.

24. Union Creek Reserve

4,940 acres of enclosed tidal creek on Great Inagua, serves as a very important research site for sea turtles, especially the Green Turtle.

25. Inagua National Park

183,740 acres of Great Inagua Island, now internationally known as the site of the world's largest breeding colony (approximately 50,000) of West Indian flamingos. In 1997 this park was designated a RAMSAR Site under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

- firearm. Never pull a firearm toward you by a muzzle.
8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. During target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
 9. Store firearms and ammunition separately beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
 10. Avoid alcoholic beverages or other mood altering drugs before or while shooting.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

A safe, responsible hunter knows that *alcohol* and *drugs* affect skill, judgement, reaction time, and coordination. Alcohol and drugs act like static, interfering with the communication from eyes and ears to the brain and back to your body. The best way to avoid the dangers of alcohol or drugs is to say no to drinking or drugs, *especially* when you are about to embark upon a hunt.

Coffee and cold showers do not sober a person; only time does. The harmful effects of mixing alcohol or drugs with hunting or while driving to and from hunting can lead to injury and death. Letting alcohol or drugs alter your mind is not smart and is dangerous.

Hunting is a sport best enjoyed when you are in control of yourself. The best hunting comes from safe, sober, responsible behavior.

WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION

Wildlife study can be rewarding all year long. Knowledgeable hunters will study wildlife whenever they can. Responsible hunters know the habits, sounds, and behaviour of the wildlife they hunt.

Bahamian birds are either resident year-round, or they spend only part of the year here. Hunting is allowed only for those species for which it has been determined by biologists that there are sufficient numbers to support hunting.

To enjoy safe, legal hunting, you should be able to recognize all species of birds.

A responsible hunter will read books and magazines that tell about game and non-game species found in The Bahamas. Field guides are good, helpful tools. There are wildlife films that show how wildlife lives, and the habitat each bird likes best.

Responsible hunters will never shoot at something they cannot positively identify. It is important to identify the bird before you pull the trigger. Wildlife identification is a skill, developed by studying each bird's physical characteristics, and colouration. It takes practice to learn bird identification skills.

RARE, PROTECTED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Some wildlife species are protected from all hunting because there are not many of them left. You are responsible for knowing which species are rare, threatened, or endangered. These species are fully protected by law.

Knowing how to identify wildlife will help you to know if birds are game or non-game. You must learn the difference to be sure that you hunt only legal wildlife.

Some non-game species are either threatened or endangered. A species is called threatened if it is likely, in the near future, to become endangered. An endangered species is one that already faces **extinction** in all or a large part of its normal range.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT STEEL SHOT

Exactly what is the problem with lead shot?

The issue here is lead poisoning. Waterfowl are most affected by this problem because these birds spend most of their time feeding in wetlands where hunters shoot. They become poisoned when they swallow the lead pellets that are left in the wetlands from hunter's shotguns. As few as one lead pellet can cause death in an adult mallard. Humans and other predators which feed on poisoned birds may also be affected.

Lead shot is not yet outlawed in The Bahamas. We would, however, recommend that hunters consider reducing the amount of lead shot used in *especially* wetland areas. These systems are connected to our fresh water systems and/or fishery nurseries and we need to ensure that they remain healthy.

How does steel shot differ from lead?

Steel pellets are harder and rounder than lead pellets. Steel pellets are not deformed as much during loading and firing. They will fly truer than lead. Since steel pellets weigh less, they will retain less energy at any given range than the same size lead shot.

7. Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park

Located 8 miles north of Cherokee Sound, Great Abaco, this 2,100 acre land and sea area is a sister park to the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park. It contains beautiful undersea caves, extensive coral reefs and abounds with terrestrial plant and animal life.

8. Abaco National Park

Established on May 9, 1994, this park comprises 20,500 acres in southern Abaco. Included in this area is 5,000 acres of forests - the major habitat of the Abaco population of the Bahama parrot.

9 - 13.. Central Andros National Parks

Five areas in the Central Andros region were designated National Parks in 2002. These areas include North Bight, Fresh Creek, Blanket Sound, Young Sound and Staniard Creek. These five areas protect pine forests, blue holes, coral reefs, wetlands and mangroves. Their designation paves the way for additional parks in the North and South.

14. The Retreat Gardens

An 11-acre garden of rare and exotic palms and native coppice in residential Nassau. It houses one of the largest private collections of palms in the world. The Administrative headquarters of The Bahamas National Trust is located at The Retreat.

15. Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park

Encompassing 250 acres in South Central New Providence this park protects an indispensable habitat for birdlife with more than 100 avian species documented from the area. An invaluable addition to the National Park system as it is an exceptional educational and ecotourism site only a stone's throw away from the national's capital.

16. Bonefish pond National Park

Located on the South Central coast of New Providence, this is an important marine nursery for many commercially important juvenile fish, conch and crawfish. The wetland also provides the coast line with protection from storm surges and is also a very important educational and ecotourism site.

17. Primeval forest

Remarkably undisturbed, this old-growth forest is a great representation of broad leaf coppice forest of the Bahamas. The forest is also set in a landscape of sinkholes up to 50 feet long and 30 feet deep providing a spectacular and intriguing site to visit.

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE BAHAMAS

The following areas are designated National Parks in The Bahamas. These parks are managed by The Bahamas National Trust. Activities within the National Parks are subject to certain bye-laws. All wildlife, including all wild birds, are completely protected within the boundaries of these National Parks at all times.

1. The Rand Nature Centre

Acquired by the Bahamas National Trust in 1992 the Rand Nature Centre comprises 100 acres of natural beauty in the heart of downtown Freeport, Grand Bahama. The Nature Centre boasts a resident flock of West Indian flamingos and a 2000 foot trail which winds through native coppice and pine barrens. The Centre now houses the administrative office of The Bahamas National Trust in Grand Bahama.

2. Peterson Cay National Park

A 1½ -acre geological wonder, being the only cay off Grand Bahama's leeward shore. This beautiful park is one of Grand Bahama's most heavily used weekend getaway spots.

3. Lucayan National Park

East of Freeport, Grand Bahama, this 40-acre park encompasses the longest known underwater cave and cavern system in the world, with over 6 miles of caves and tunnels already charted. Above ground exists all vegetative zones characteristic of The Bahamas.

4. Walker's Cay National Park

The Northern most island in the Bahamas. Walker's Cay is fringed by its own barrier reef. The stunning coral formations and surrounding marine environment host a vast array of marine life. Visibility reaches over 100 feet providing a mecca for divers.

5. Black Sound Cay Reserve

Located off Green Turtle Cay in Abaco, this 2-acre park comprises a thick stand of mangrove vegetation and is an important habitat to waterfowl and other avifauna which winter in The Bahamas.

6. Tilloo Cay National Park

Acquired by the Trust through private donation, this 11-acre area encompasses a tropical wilderness shoreline of outstanding beauty. Exposed to the Atlantic Ocean, the area is an important sea bird nesting site.

Does steel shot not perform as well as lead?

Not necessarily. Three factors determine performance: roundness, speed and weight. Steel shot is superior to lead in roundness and short-range speed, but not in weight. Ammunition manufacturers have adjusted for this difference in weight with special wads and powders to attain higher muzzle velocities. They also recommend that hunters use two shot sizes larger in steel than they would normally use in lead. This gives comparable retained energy at a similar range.

So, all I need to do is buy two shot sizes larger and I'm OK?

No. Because it deforms less during loading and firing, steel shot flies truer and usually patterns tighter. The hunter will want to use a more open choke than he would use with lead shot. Hunters should sharpen their skills by shooting at clay targets before going afield with steel shot. This will build confidence in the hunter's ability to make clean kills with steel shot.

Do I need to learn to "shoot differently" with steel?

Probably not. Usually a steel load starts out with higher speed than a similar lead load, but slows down more quickly because it is lighter. It loses its speed advantage somewhere downrange, usually at about 40 yards.

PROTECTED SPECIES

The following three species of Ducks are protected year round.



WHISTLING DUCK (OR TREE DUCK)

Scientific Name: *Dendrocynna arborea*

Identification: 19-22". Long-legged upright duck, with rich brown plumage, black hind crown and stripe to back, pale throat, white belly spotted with black.

Feeding: Fruits, molluscs, crustacea, small fish and insects.

Distribution: Occurs on most islands, but may be hard to find because of its nocturnal habits, and low population numbers.

This species is threatened and stands to become endangered, hence it is fully protected by law under the Wild Birds Protection Act. Absolutely no hunting is allowed.

WILD BIRD RESERVES

It is lawful for the Minister to establish Wild Bird Reserves. Such reserves may comprise Crown or private land. Any person who enters such a reserve with the intent to kill or capture any wild bird shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

The following locations are designated as **Wild Bird Reserves** in The Bahamas. It is illegal to harm, kill or capture, or attempt to harm, kill or capture ANY wild bird in these areas at any time.

Andros	Big Green Cay, Washerwoman Cut Cays, Grassy Creek Cays, High Cay, Joulter Cays, Dolly Cay, Sister Rocks, Pigeon Cay.
Berry Island	Mamma Rhoda Cay.
Cat Island	Little San Salvador, Goat Cay.
Eleuthera	Water Cay, Wood Cay, Cedar Cay, Bottle Cay, Finley Cay.
Exuma	Betty Cay, Big Derby Island, Big Galliot Cay, Channel Cays, Cistern Cay, Rock off Hog Cay, Flat Cay, Goat Cay, Guana Cay, Harvey Cay, Little Derby Island, Leaf Cay, Pigeon Cay.
New Providence	Adelaide Creek, Cable Beach Golf Course, the Caves, Lake Cunningham, Goulding Cay, Lakeview, Paradise Island, Prospect Ridge, Prospect Water Works, Red Sound, Skyline Heights, Twin Lakes, Waterloo, Westward Villas.

SALE/POSSESSION

The sale and/or possession of wild birds and/or wild bird products, is also regulated in The Bahamas.

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to expose or offer for sale any wild bird, or the eggs, skin or feathers of any wild bird.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession or control or expose or offer for sale any immature bird.
- (c) It is unlawful for any person to have at any time in his possession or control the eggs of any wild bird for which there is an open season.
- (d) It is unlawful for any person to export or attempt to export any wild bird or the eggs, skin or feathers of any wild bird.
- (e) It is unlawful for any person other than:
 - a citizen of The Bahamas
 - a permanent resident of The Bahamas
 - a person holding a valid work permitto capture or kill or have in his possession or control any wild bird on the Game Bird schedule if he has not been a resident in The Bahamas for a period of 90 days immediately preceding such capture, killing or taking into possession or control.

GAME WARDENS

The Minister may appoint any person to be a Game Warden for the purpose of the Wild Birds (Protection) Act. Persons appointed Game Wardens act as extensions of the Ministry into the various islands. Game Wardens may enter any into any area or onto any premises if he suspects that there has been an offence committed against the Act.

PENALTIES/REWARDS

- (a) Any person guilty of an offence against this Act shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or one month's imprisonment, or both; and, any weapon, trap or other device or any vehicle, boat, vessel, or aircraft shall be forfeited.
- (b) A reward of five hundred dollars or one-half of the proceeds of the sale of forfeited articles, whichever is the greater, will be paid to the person or persons who give information leading to the conviction of any offender.

PROTECTED SPECIES



WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (BAHAMA DUCK OR WHITE FACE)

Scientific Name: *Anas bahamensis*

Identification: 15-16". The distinguishing feature on this brown-bodied duck is the white patch on each cheek. It has a white throat and a mainly red bill. Its pointed tail is light buff.

Feeding: Aquatic vegetation, invertebrates.

Distribution: Common on New Providence. Also found on Eleuthera and Exumas, Andros, Cat Island, San Salvador, Inagua.

This species is threatened and stands to become endangered, hence it is fully protected under the Wild Birds Protection Act. Absolutely no hunting is allowed.

PROTECTED SPECIES



RUDDY DUCK

Scientific Name: *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Identification: 14 ½–16". A small reddish-brown duck with a thick blue bill and white cheek patch. Male has a black cap.

Feeding: Aquatic plants, aquatic animals, crustaceans

Distribution: New Providence and Inagua.

This species is threatened and stands to become endangered, hence it is fully protected by law under the Wild Birds Protection Act. Absolutely no hunting is allowed.

A SUMMARY OF THE WILD BIRDS (PROTECTION) ACT

All wild birds in The Bahamas are protected by law. With the exception of designated game birds, our wild birds are protected year round. Hunting is allowed for only for those species listed in the schedule to the Act, and only for the periods specified.

CLOSED SEASON

During the closed season assigned to any wild bird it is unlawful to:

- (a) kill or capture or attempt to kill or capture any wild bird;
- (b) use or have in your possession any firearm or other weapon or any line, trap, snare, net or other instrument for the purpose of capturing any wild bird;
- (c) take from any nest or place of deposit the eggs of any wild bird.

OPEN SEASON

During the open (hunting) season assigned to any wild bird it is unlawful:

- (a) for any person to kill or capture any wild bird during the open season without having a valid gun license;
- (b) for any person to have in his possession more than the prescribed number of wild birds at any time;
- (c) the law establishes a daily limit. It is illegal to kill more than the prescribed number constituting the daily bag limit.
- (d) a Game Warden or officer of the law may at any time request to see a bag, to check whether the hunter is within the legal bag limit.

HUNTING SEASON

15th September – February 28th - Mourning or “Florida” Dove, Ring Necked Dove.

29th September – February 28th – White-crowned Pigeon, Ring Necked Pheasant, Wood or Zenaida Dove, Guinea Fowl, Bob White, Chukar Partridge, Common (Wilson’s or Jack) Snipe.

29th September – March 31st – Ducks (except White-cheeked Pintail or white face, West Indian Whistling duck or Ruddy duck etc. (extends one month beyond White-crowned Pigeon Season).



COOT

Scientific Name: *Fulica americana*

Identification: 15". A grayish black bird, white bill, with the white extending to its frontal shield. The frontal shield extends from the base of the bill upwards onto the forehead. It has white undertail-coverts and a white line on the trailing edge of the wing, visible in flight.

Hunting Season: September 29th – March 31st

Feeding: Water, seeds, leaves, roots and small aquatic animals.

Distribution: Throughout The Bahamas. Especially common on golf ponds, and other artificial bodies of water.

DUCKS FLYING

West Indian Whistling Duck



Northern Pintail



American Wigeon



White-cheeked Pintail



Northern Shoveler



Green-winged Teal



Mallard



Blue-winged Teal



PROTECTED SPECIES

The following two species of Doves are protected year round.



TOBACCO OR COMMON GROUND DOVE

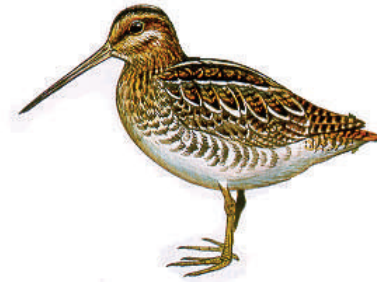
Scientific Name: *Columbina passerina*

Identification: 5¼–7". A very small dove, grayish-brown in colour with intermittent black barring on the wing coverts.

Feeding: Seeds, berries, and insects.

Distribution: Throughout The Bahamas.

This species is fully protected by law under the Wild Birds Protection Act. Absolutely no hunting is allowed.



WILSON'S OR COMMON SNIPE

Scientific Name: *Gallinago gallinago*

Identification: 11". A plump bird with a very long bill, short legs with white stripes on its dark body, along with black and white stripes on head.

Hunting Season: September 29th – March 31st.

Feeding: Seeds, insects, earthworms, frogs, salamanders, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Distribution: Winter migrant found throughout The Bahamas arriving in October and leaving again by the middle of April. Commonly found on the edges of ponds or in mangrove wetlands.

PROTECTED SPECIES



BOBWHITE

Scientific Name: *Colinus virginianus*

Identification: 10". Chunky, brown bird with short legs. Plumage is a speckled reddish-brown.

Hunting Season: September 29th – March 31st.

Feeding: Grass seeds, grains, leaves, fruits and insects.

Distribution: Andros, Abaco, New Providence. Often seen scampering about the underbrush; until coveys flush in bursts from cover.

KEYWEST QUAIL DOVE

Scientific Name: *Geotrygon chrysia*

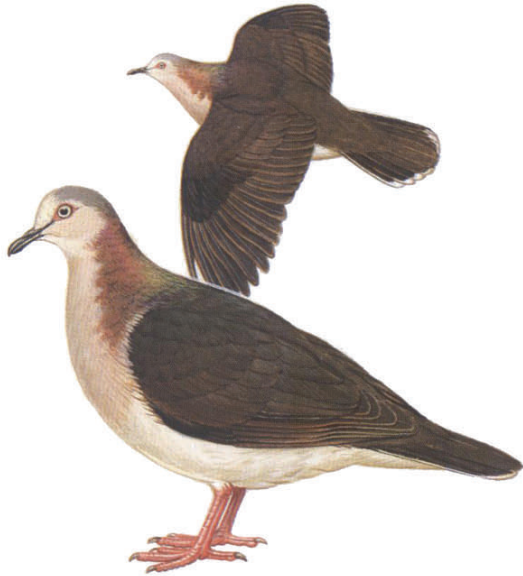
Identification: 11–12". Noted for the white line under the eye, reddish-brown back and wings and primarily white underparts.

Feeding: Seeds.

Distribution: Andros, Abaco, New Providence, Grand Bahama and Eleuthera.

This species is fully protected by law under the Wild Birds Protection Act. Absolutely no hunting is allowed.

PROTECTED SPECIES



CARIBBEAN DOVE

Scientific Name: *Leptotila jamaicensis*

Identification: 30-33 cm (12-13"). Plump, terrestrial. White forehead, face and underparts; long red legs; underwings cinnamon colored.

Feeding: Seeds.

Distribution: New Providence.



RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Scientific Name: *Phasianus colchicus*

Identification: 30–36". A large chicken-like bird, with a long cinnamon coloured tail with narrow black bars, incomplete white neck band. The female is a mottled brown colour with a shorter tail.

Hunting Season: September 29th – March 1st.

Feeding: Insects, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, small vertebrates; seeds, grains and fruits.

Distribution: Introduced on Eleuthera, they can occasionally be found in the area of the old Hatchet Bay Plantation. Also introduced in North Andros in late 1990's



ZENAIDA DOVE

Scientific Name: *Zenaida aurita*

Identification: 11-12". A heavy set reddish brown dove, with pink being noticeable on its head, neck and upper breast. Dark streaks are on each side of its head along with distinct black spots on its wings. Rounded tail with white is a distinctive feature.

Hunting Season: September 29th – March 1st.

Feeding: Mainly gathers seeds from the ground, sometimes takes seeds and fruits from trees.

Distribution: Throughout The Bahamas.



WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON

Scientific Name: *Columba leucocephala*

Identification: 13–14". Dark gray body, with distinct white crown. Paler greyish-white crown on females.

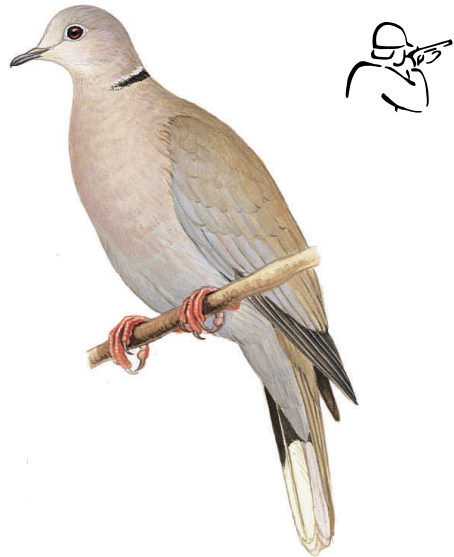
Hunting Season: September 29th – March 1st.

Feeding: Feeds primarily on fruits and berries. Especially fond of Poisonwood berries (*metopium toxiferum*)

Distribution: Throughout The Bahamas.

Note: The White-crowned Pigeon is The Bahamas' most popular game bird. It is carefully managed through a cooperative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Bahamas National Trust. The Hunting Season for white-crowned Pigeon opens on September 29. The closed season always begins on March 1st each year.

It is illegal to hunt White-crowned Pigeon from a vessel, aircraft, as well as in, or on over any water.



RING-NECKED OR EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE

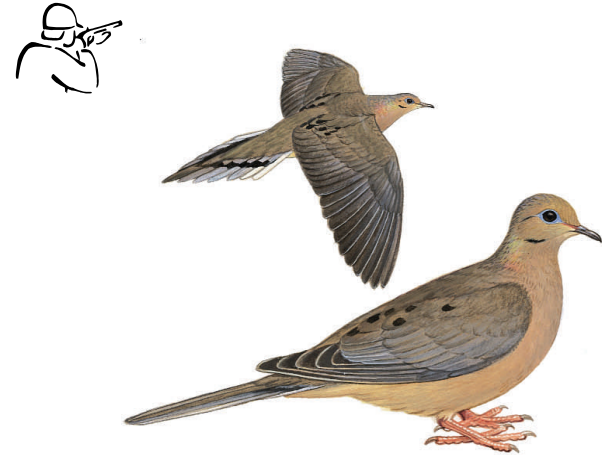
Scientific Name: *Streptopelia decaocto*

Identification: 11-12". Gray bird with a half black collar extending around the sides and back of the neck.

Hunting Season: September 15th – March 1st.

Feeding: Seeds, grains, crumbs picked up from the ground, and berries. Also commonly found around pet feeding stations, at chicken farms and dump sites.

Distribution: Introduced to New Providence in 1974, this urbanized species can now be found in most of northern islands of The Bahamas Abaco, Andros, Bimini, Grand Bahama, New Providence, the Berry Islands and Eleuthera. Believed to be expanding throughout The Bahamas. As it has recently been found on Great Exuma and San Salvador.



MOURNING DOVE OR "PINTAIL"

Scientific Name: *Zenaida macroura*

Identification: 11-13". Pale buffy brown dove with black spots on its face and wings. It is distinguished by its long, wedge-tail, which is fringed with white.

Hunting Season: September 15th – March 1st.

Feeding: Seeds.

Distribution: More numerous on the Northern Islands, but can still be found throughout The Bahamas