

# Waterfowl season determined by zone

By Tom Dreiling

The Norton Telegram  
tomd@nwkansas.com

When you talk about waterfowl seasons in Kansas, you are talking about zones. For those of us who live in what can truly be described as western Kansas, are in the High Plains Zone.

Well, mostly.

The High Plains Zone comprises everything west of U.S. 283 from the Nebraska line to the Oklahoma border to Colorado. East of that line, is the Low Plains, including the Early Zone and Late Zone.

Part of Norton County is in the early zone, as are parts of Graham, Trego, Ness, Hodgeman and Ford counties. The early zone is a strange configuration of a dozen or so counties, or parts thereof, while the late zone swallows up the rest of the state.

Season dates, therefore, vary by zone. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission set the 2007 waterfowl seasons at a public hearing held in August at Olathe. Seasons and limits include:

• **Ducks** — High Plains Zone, Oct. 6-Jan. 1, and Jan. 19-27. Low Plains Early Zone, Oct. 13-Dec. 9, and Dec. 15-30. Low Plains Late Zone, Oct. 27-Dec. 30, and Jan. 19-27. Daily bag limit is five. Possession limit is 10.

• **Canada Geese** — Oct. 27-28, and Nov. 7-

Feb. 17. Daily bag limit three, possession limit six.

• **White-Fronted Geese** — Oct. 27-28, Nov. 7-Jan. 6, and Feb. 9-17. Daily bag limit is two, possession limit four.

• **Light Geese** — Oct. 27-28, and Nov. 7-Feb. 17. Conservation Order, Feb. 18-April 30. Daily bag limit is 20, with no possession limit.

(The Youth Season was Sept. 29-30 in the High Plains Zone, Oct. 6-7 in the Early Zone and Oct. 20-21 in the Late Zone.)

Additional migratory birds, with dates and limits:

• **Dove**, all areas, Sept. 1-14 and Nov. 1-16. Daily bag limit 15, possession limit 30.

• **Rail** (Sora and Virginia), all areas, Sept. 1-Nov. 9. Daily bag and possession limit 25.

• **Snipe**, all areas, Sept. 1-Dec. 16. Daily bag limit eight, possession limit 16.

• **Woodcock**, all areas, Oct. 13-Nov. 26. Daily bag limit three, possession limit six.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has five regional offices in the state, at Hays, Topeka, Dodge City, Wichita and Chanute.

The region Norton is in covers 26 counties in the northwest and northcentral areas of the state.

Because this has been a wetter than normal year in many areas of this region, officials say, that should translate into improved waterfowl hunting conditions. They say lake levels are higher than at this time last year, although bare shorelines are still evident on most lakes due,

primarily, to evaporation and water releases since the large inflows occurred.

The department said the exception is Glen Elder Reservoir over in Mitchell County, where the perimeter of the reservoir has some good flooded vegetation that should attract waterfowl. They say more good runoff would raise more

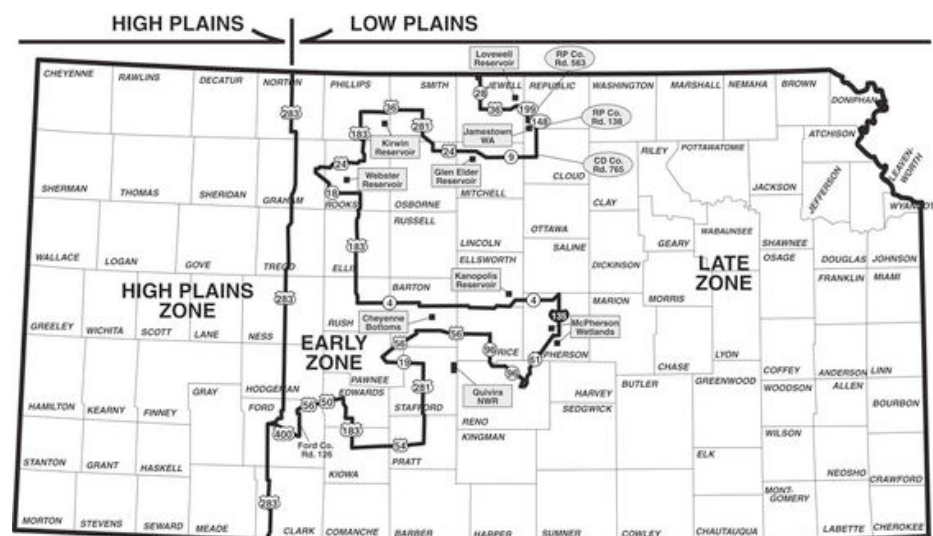
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