

aged to "Be HIP!" if they also plan to pursue woodcock, mourning doves or other migratory game birds

Upland hunters that may harvest woodcock are reminded that the season does not begin until Sept 24, a week after grouse opens, and that they must meet the federal requirement to be registered with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting these and other migratory game birds. Registration is free and is available through all license vendors as well as online; hunters will only need to answer a few short questions. Though not a requirement for hunting ruffed grouse, federal rules do require that hunters use a plugged shotgun limited to holding three shells when hunting migratory game birds such as woodcock. These are both important points to remember even if you may only harvest woodcock opportunistically. To learn more about HIP, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for "Harvest Information Program."

### **2011 Ruffed Grouse Season Dates:**

Zone A: Sept. 17 through Jan. 31, 2012

Zone B: Oct. 15 through Dec. 8

More information is available on the Wisconsin wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and harvest information program pages on the DNR website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Scott Walter, Up-

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### **2011 Wisconsin waterfowl hunting seasons set**

The Natural Resources Board set 2011 waterfowl season dates and bag limits and approved creation of a third waterfowl hunting zone at its meeting today in Spring Green.

"Waterfowl hunters can look forward to a full 60-day duck season with a six-duck daily bag, and an 85-day exterior goose zone season," said Kent Van Horn, Department of Natural Resources waterfowl ecologist. "It was a good year for duck production in Wisconsin and across the continent. Overall conditions were very good for breeding ducks. The continental breeding duck estimates hit a record level at 45.6 million ducks making 2011 good year to be a duck hunter.

"As always, the most successful hunters will be the ones doing the early season scouting, locating the smaller isolated potholes that can attract waterfowl when hunting pressure is high in other areas and securing permissions from landowners well in advance," added Van Horn. "I'd like to thank the thousands of hunters who participated in the development of our new duck hunting zones and wish all waterfowl hunters

a successful and safe season."

### **2011 waterfowl season structure**

During the 60-day season duck season, the daily bag limit is six ducks in total. The six-duck total may include no more than four mallards, of which only one can be a hen, three wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, two pintail, two scaup and one canvasback. In addition, five mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag of 15. (For duck species not listed such as teal and ring-necked ducks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed six ducks).

\* Northern Zone-Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.-Nov. 22.

\* Southern Zone-Oct. 1 at 9 a.m.-Oct. 9, and Oct. 15 -Dec. 4.

\* Mississippi River Zone-Sept. 24 at 9 a.m. - Oct. 2, Oct. 15-Dec. 4 (12 day split Oct 3-14),

### **Youth Waterfowl Hunt**

The youth waterfowl hunt will be Sept. 17-18. Youth may harvest Canada geese in all zones during these 2 days. All bag limits and tag requirements apply for the zone hunted. These days overlap with open goose seasons in most areas so adults will also be able to harvest geese but not ducks during the youth hunt.

"The youth waterfowl hunt is important to the future of waterfowl hunting and I encourage all waterfowl hunters to take a son, daughter, niece,