

ferent situations, including disasters – such as the earthquake in Haiti where dogs found people beneath the rubble – cadaver searches, drowning situations, and avalanches. Search and rescue training is a rigorous process starting from puppyhood. Once training is completed, dogs are tested and certified by SAR organizations. Breeds that most commonly work with SAR are German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Bloodhounds, among others.

\* Explosives detection. Dogs have been serving our country at home and abroad for many years saving lives by warning their handlers of explosive devices. These canine heroes work with the police, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and military to locate dangerous materials. The dogs go through an intense training course to learn how to locate and identify a wide variety of explosives and to alert their handlers of its presence. Breeds that excel in this kind of work include the German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, and Vizsla.

\* Cancer detection. Believe it or not, scientists were able to train Labrador Retrievers to sniff out cancer in patients' breath by smelling samples and sitting down in front of the one that was cancerous. Cancer cells give off different odors than regular cells and they change the way a person's breath smells – a dog's keen nose can tell the difference. In

one case in particular, the Lab correctly diagnosed the disease 98 percent of the time, whereas a test that is commonly used found the cancer only 10 percent of the time.

\* Allergy Alert dogs. Peanut allergies can be life threatening. Stepping up to the job to alleviate parents' fears when their kids leave the house are a variety of dogs that have the uncanny sense to sniff out even the slightest trace of peanuts. These dogs are trained to detect the allergen and its residue at schools, during social events, and everyday activities and alert their owner. Their training is similar to that of a police dog learning to track scents or drugs. Breeds that most commonly work as allergy alert dogs are the Poodle, the Golden Retriever, and the Portuguese Water Dog.

From the Afghan Hound to the Turkish Van, AKC Meet the Breeds is the world's largest showcase of dogs and cats and offers pet lovers a unique opportunity to play with some of the country's rarest dog and cat breeds while educating themselves about responsible pet ownership and choosing the right breed for their lifestyle. Presented by PetPartners, Inc., this family-friendly event will showcase 160 AKC registered dog breeds and 50 TICA registered cat breeds – in booths individually decorated to depict each breed's country of origin, historical purpose/function, and attributes as a family pet – include fun animal demon-

strations and more than 100 vendors selling unique holiday dog and cat items.

Visit [www.meetthebreeds.com](http://www.meetthebreeds.com) for more information on these detection dog breeds, or meet them in person at AKC Meet the Breeds November 19th and 20th at the Javits Center in New York City. Tickets allow admittance for one day and can be purchased online at [www.meetthebreeds.com](http://www.meetthebreeds.com). You can also see these dogs at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship December 17th and 18th at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

## News from the Enemy camps & the Good Guys

### Women Gun Owners Depicted in New Book

When it comes to art and firearms, we think more about gun-making craftsmanship than about portraits of firearms owners. But we've just had our thinking expanded.

Portrait photographer Lindsay McCrum's new book, "Chicks with Guns," is drawing welcome attention to the growing number of women who own firearms for target shooting, hunting, personal defense and collecting. It's not your usual gun book.

McCrum's photographs tell a powerful story, just as these statistics do: Participation by women in target shooting has increased 46.5 percent from 2001 to 2010 and in hunting by 36.6 percent in the same period, according to the National Sporting Goods Association. In an NSSF survey of firearms retailers, 61% of respondents saw an increase in female customers in their store in 2010 over 2009.

Other evidence, too, such as the strong turnouts by women in concealed carry classes nationwide and in NSSF's First Shots seminars, helps confirm this trend. (First Shots introduces newcomers to target shooting by providing both a classroom

overview and supervised live-fire experience.)

This is nothing new to the hunting and shooting community, but we think the compelling photographs in "Chicks with Guns" will bring the trend to life for those less familiar with our traditions and our pastimes.

The book's intent is described this way: "Because gun ownership and shooting cut across class, age, occupation, background and geography in America, guns are resolutely democratic. And the women depicted in 'Chicks with Guns' represent this variety. They reside in all regions of the country, come from all levels of society, and participate seriously in diverse shooting activities. From policewomen to hunters, ranchers to competition shooters, the collection of portraits in 'Chicks with Guns' defies stereotypes often associated with aspects of the popular culture of both guns and women."

From art houses to hunting lodges, McCrum's book has the ability to raise awareness about the millions of women who own and enjoy using firearms safely and responsibly.

### All Pa. farmers don't oppose Sunday hunting

A column that ran in this week's Pennsylvania Outdoor News addressed the misconception that farmers throughout the state oppose Sunday Hunting.

According to the Farm Bureau, the overwhelming majority of Keystone State farmers oppose allowing more Sunday hunting. But increasingly we have been hearing from farmers across the state who are quietly saying that is not true.

"Why should the state tell me what I can do on my own land on any given day of the week," said one agricultural producer. "It's my land, and I should control it. I don't need the state to forbid hunting on Sunday on my property. I can handle that myself, if that is my choice."

"As a member of the Farm Bureau, I will not hesitate to tell you that the group is not representing my best interest as a landowner," he added. "I could not be more opposed to the Farm Bureau."

Most people understand that farmers need hunters. This explains why farmers never closed off land in other states where Sunday hunting bans were lifted.

There are also strong economic benefits to allowing Sunday hunting. A report released

by a coalition of America's leading conservation, sportsmen's and hunting organizations has found that removal of Sunday hunting restrictions would result in an estimated 8,190 new Pennsylvania jobs. The report also notes that these jobs would pay more than \$245 million in wages and contribute approximately \$765 million in additional economic activity to the state.

If you live in the keystone state and care about protecting and preserving the future of our hunting traditions, then it's important that you contact your elected state officials and urge them to support HB 1760, which would repeal the old blue law still on the books that bans Sunday hunting.

### **Microstamping Threat in Massachusetts**

ANTI-GUN BILL TO BE HEARD IN COMMITTEE . . . Once again politicians in Boston are more concerned about burdening law-abiding gun owners and retailers and forcing the closure of major Massachusetts manufacturers rather than focusing on economic problems facing the state. State Sen. Anthony Petrucci's microstamping legislation (S.835) will be heard in the Joint Judiciary Committee this Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Room A-1. Microstamping is a patented, sole-sourced concept that independent studies have proven to be flawed and easily defeated by criminals. Smith and Wesson, Kahr Arms and

Savage Arms and their nearly 2,000 jobs would be impacted by this legislation. The companies would most likely have to abandon the state. The firearms industry in Massachusetts contributes more than \$1.1 billion dollars in economic activity yearly. NSSF encourages everyone in Massachusetts to contact members of the Joint Judiciary Committee to express opposition to this legislation.

### **Victory in Fight to Preserve Traditional Ammunition**

Efforts to protect the rights of sportsmen and gun owners to use the ammunition of their choice received a significant boost last week when a federal judge dismissed part of a Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) lawsuit. The CBD suit challenged the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) denial of a petition to ban traditional ammunition and lead fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA). The court ruled it does not have jurisdiction over EPA's refusal to regulate traditional ammunition because the complaint was not filed within the statute of limitations to challenge the EPA decision. The ruling does not apply to the lead fishing gear portion of the petition.

"This is a great victory for industry," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "Still, the legal, regulatory and legislative threats against tradi-

tional ammunition remain very real. This is why it is imperative that all sportsmen urge their senators and representatives to support the Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act."

### **Public Support for Hunting Remains Strong, NSSF Study Shows**

#### **94 Percent Agree with 'Right to Hunt'**

As sportsmen and sportswomen prepare to celebrate the 40th annual National Hunting & Fishing Day this Saturday, a new study shows that the majority of Americans continue to support hunting.

The scientific telephone survey of American adults 18 and older was conducted in early September and commissioned by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry.

Three-fourths of survey respondents (74 percent) said they approved of hunting, a level of support that has not varied by more than a few percentage points since 1995. "The numbers have been consistent over the past two decades," said Mark Damian Duda, executive director of Responsive Management, the research firm that conducted the study. "Support for hunting is solid."

The new study went a step further than previous research, however, revealing extraordinary support for the "right to hunt." No matter what their opinion about hunting, Americans stand firmly behind a person's right to hunt, with 94 percent agreeing it is "OK for other people to hunt if they do so legally and in accordance with hunting laws and regulations." Only four percent of respondents wanted to strip citizens of the right to hunt.

"It's gratifying to see that strong public support for our great tradition of hunting is unwavering," said Steve Sanetti, NSSF president and CEO. "For many of us, it is extremely fulfilling to provide food for ourselves and our families through hunting, even if only on a few days a year. That's one of many reasons why NSSF and others work so diligently to protect hunting."

The survey also revealed that Americans have a taste for eating what sportsmen harvest. Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated they have eaten some type of wild (non-farm) game meat or fish within the last 12 months. This finding corresponds to people's growing interest about their food sources. Hunters and their families have always known the benefits of eating healthful,

hormone-free game meat, and now more people are enjoying cooking and eating game, with some even taking up hunting because it connects them directly with locally acquired, sustainable foods.

The survey also revealed the public was equally supportive of target shooting, with 93 percent agreeing that target shooting is acceptable.

Survey respondents closely matched the age, gender, race and region of the American



population 18 and older. Of the hunters in the survey--about 10 percent--the average age was 41. "It remains a goal of the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the many programs it funds to increase hunting participation among all ages, especially by attracting younger participants and former hunters," said Sanetti. "It is they who will carry on this great American tradition and continue to fund the protection of wildlife and habitat."

The billions of dollars generated through hunting license sales and excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, as well as fishing tackle, provide the foundation for wildlife conservation efforts in America. Excise taxes on firearms and ammunition sales alone have resulted in more than \$6.8 billion benefiting conservation through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. One of the objectives of National Hunting & Fishing Day is to raise awareness

of the many contributions sportsmen make in this area.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 6,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers. For more information, log on to [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org).

## State News

### IOWA

#### 2011-12 Iowa Pheasant Season Forecast

Results of Iowa's statewide survey of upland game are in and show a small gain in pheasant numbers in southern Iowa and fewer birds across northern Iowa. Overall, pheasant hunters will continue to find better hunting in Iowa's pheasant belt – northwest, central and north-central Iowa, and a few more birds in south central and southwest Iowa.

The Iowa pheasant population has fallen to a new all-time low with a statewide average of 7 birds counted for each 30 mile route driven, after a fifth winter in a row with above normal snowfall, followed by a wet nesting season. The 2010 statewide average was 11 birds per route.

This drop in pheasant numbers is not restricted to Iowa. South Dakota pheasant population is down 46 percent; Minnesota was down 64 percent and Nebraska counted 20 percent few birds than last year.

"The last five years have been really frustrating for Iowa hunters and for the department," said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the DNR. "Plain and simple, we have lost hens and nests consecutively each of the last five years because of un-

precedented weather patterns for Iowa."

Parts of the northwest, north central, central and east central regions reported some fair bird counts in 2011, but small areas with better pheasant numbers may also be found in other regions. The 2011 pheasant hunting season runs from October 29 through January 10, 2012. The full roadside report can be downloaded from the DNR's website at:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/PheasantSmallGame/AugustRoadsideSurveyData.aspx>

#### Opening Day Success During Iowa's Inaugural Dove Season

A limit of mourning doves taken during Iowa's first ever

dove season. Photo by Joe Wilkinson, Iowa DNR. Four hunters. Four limits of doves. Not uncommon Thursday, on Opening Day of Iowa's first mourning dove season.

"Mostly passing shots to begin with; some coming at me, some going away; anywhere from 10 to 40 yards," assessed Matt Prachar of Wheatland, after walking out of a cut sunflower field on the state Hawkeye Wildlife Area, near the Iowa River. "This is my first time dove hunting. It was a blast."

As Prachar, Craig Davis, Ian Phillips and Cody Stiff of the Iowa City/Solon area packed away their hunting gear, we heard another shot from the 100-plus acre field they had just left.

"We went in about 4, 4:30 this morning to beat anybody else out to the field," said Prachar. "We ended up waiting til about 6:20 (a.m.) Once they started, it was a lot of shooting...pretty quick."



Shooting hours open a half hour before dawn each morning for the 70 day dove season. They did have a couple groups walk in after they did on the public land. A foursome of hunters set up across and downfield from them, in the long corridor like set up. A father and son came in just about shooting time. That caused a minor stir when the younger hunter started swinging too far toward them once, as doves flew.

Davis's group hunted primarily with 12 gauge shotguns, with one ounce loads and 7 1/2 size shot. Stiff did trade down to a smaller gauge for part of the morning, and used brass-coated shot.

The non-toxic shot, instead of lead, was debated, during Legislative discussion...and was approved by the Iowa Natural Resources Commission as it established final rules. A legislative committee stepped in, though, delaying that 'no lead' through this first season. It will be considered by the 2012 Legislature.

Overall, though, Iowa's dove opener played to a welcome crowd. The key, though, is finding a dove-friendly food plot; disked fields where sunflowers, millet or maybe winter wheat was planted earlier in the season.

"It looked like people who used to go out of state, who stayed in Iowa and knew where to hunt did real well. Those who were out for the first time are looking at a learning curve," noted Tim Thompson, Depart-

ment of Natural Resources wildlife biologist.

Thompson said hunters he talked with in the Chain of Lakes area, along the Cedar River in Linn County had eight or 10 birds each, if not their 15 dove limits by mid to late morning.

Those food plots, especially on state-owned public hunting ground went in late this season; with crews waiting until the Legislature-passed dove hunting season became law. Those public areas have smaller food plots; with plans for wider distribution in future years.

The next step for most of those hunters...is meal time.

"We breast them out, marinate them in Italian dressing, soy sauce and brown sugar; then wrap bacon on them and grill them as kabobs," said Davis, passing along a recipe that they have used in Missouri over the years.

"We have hunted doves down there during the early teal season. We prepare them the same as the teal. Dust them with brown sugar just before they're done. Pile them on a platter. When everybody is finished, the platter is empty. They're great!" Davis said.

Iowa's dove season runs through November 9.

For more information:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/MigratoryGame-Birds/MourningDoves.aspx>

## **Correction to the Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations Booklet**

Hunters who plan to pursue doves this fall will be allowed to use lead shot except on wildlife areas that require the use of non-toxic shot for hunting any species, except deer and turkey, which are listed on p. 16 of the Iowa Hunting and Trapping regulations booklet available at more than 800 locations in Iowa and online at [www.iowadnr.gov/hunting](http://www.iowadnr.gov/hunting).

The correction in the regulations booklet is on p. 3 under the heading Highlights or Changes to the 2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations that states: Hunters are required to use non-toxic shot to hunt doves.

The non-toxic shot requirement was discussed during the Administrative Rules Review Committee Tuesday that placed a session delay on it to allow the Iowa legislature to address the requirement.

## **Waterfowl Seasons Presented at August 11 Natural Resource Commission Meeting**

The Mississippi Flyway council annual season and regulations meeting concluded on

Saturday and waterfowl hunters can expect similar season lengths and bag limits as in 2010.

The proposed waterfowl sea-

son and bag limit will be on the August 11 agenda of the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources Natural Resource Commission.

Members of the Mississippi Flyway council include Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

### Iowa Hunting Seasons Set

Waterfowl seasons will be set during the Aug. 11 meeting of the DNR's Natural Resource Commission. The following Iowa hunting seasons have been approved.

Mourning Dove (including Eurasian Collared Dove), Sept. 1-Nov. 9

Ruffed Grouse, Oct. 1-Jan. 31, 2012

Pigeon, Oct. 1-March 31, 2012

Gray Partridge, Oct. 8-Jan. 31, 2012

Youth Rooster Pheasant, Oct. 22-23

Rooster Pheasant, Oct. 29-Jan. 10, 2012

Bobwhite Quail, Oct. 29-Jan. 31, 2012

## KANSAS HEAT AND DROUGHT IMPACT 2011 UPLAND BIRD FORECAST

While some areas of central, northcentral, and northwest Kansas may offer good hunting, drought and heat have reduced bird numbers

Kansas upland bird hunters enjoyed a banner season in 2010, but this summer's heat and drought in parts of the state have hurt upland bird prospects for 2011. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) has released its 2011 Kansas Upland Bird Forecast, and although good numbers of pheasants and quail will be found in some areas, severe drought and record high temperatures throughout much of the birds' range resulted in fewer birds overall.

Generally, the best pheasant hunting in 2011 will be north of I-70 in western Kansas, the best quail hunting will be in the central part of the state, and the best greater prairie chicken hunting should be in native grasslands from the northern Flint Hills westward throughout the Smoky Hills.

Central and western Kansas had a relatively mild 2010-2011 winter, and over-winter survival was very high for upland game throughout most of the state. Breeding populations in central and western areas neared all time highs, especially for pheasant. However, drought that began in the summer of 2010 and persisted

through the 2011 nesting season (May through July) and the summer hampered growth of wheat — primary nesting habitat for pheasants — especially in western Kansas. Areas in northwest and northcentral parts of the state received rain in May, which improved nesting conditions in those areas but likely hurt nest success where rainfall was excessive. In July and August, some severe hailstorms hit these areas, possibly decreasing chick survival in localized areas.

The southern half of the state endured prolonged drought through the rest of the summer. Southwest and southcentral Kansas had particularly bad reproductive conditions for pheasants, quail, and prairie chickens.

So what does this mean for Kansas upland bird hunters this fall? Here's the statewide breakdown by species.

### Pheasants

Unfortunately, drought through much of the state hampered pheasant reproduction this year. A substantial number of hens nest in winter wheat in the primary pheasant range (western Kansas). This year, much of western Kansas, especially southwest, had much-reduced wheat production. Nest success was likely much lower in these areas due to poor vegetative structure. Additionally, earlier wheat harvest dates due to poor growing conditions likely caused losses to nests or young broods. Thus, like many other pheasant states, Kansas

will experience a substantial decline in the pheasant population this year.

The timing and quantity of early summer precipitation also plays a direct role in game bird productivity. Success of nests and survival of young is generally best when rain comes slowly and in near average amounts during May and June. Most of the areas in Kansas' primary pheasant range did not meet that prescription this year and had little or no precipitation. Additionally, a few areas where there was reproductive success (northwest and northcentral Kansas) received heavy rainfall and/or hail during the peak reproductive period. Although these storms were often localized, in some counties they occurred multiple times. Counties affected by hail include portions of Norton, Graham, and Rooks.

Compared to 2010, pheasant numbers will be considerably lower throughout their range. This will especially be true in northeastern, southwestern, and southcentral Kansas. In those parts of northwestern and northcentral Kansas not affected by severe summer storms, pheasant numbers will be relatively good compared to other areas of the state but still down from last year.

## Quail

The bobwhite breeding population in 2011 was generally stable compared to 2010, except for southwestern Kansas, where there were severe declines. However, 2011 summer

brood surveys indices were down throughout much of the state for quail, indicating a general decline. There were some indications of higher reproductive success in the northcentral, southcentral, and southeast parts of Kansas although good areas may be spotty.

Because quail breed later than pheasants and prairie chickens, early summer moisture may have provided better conditions for nesting and brood-rearing in central and eastern Kansas. In past years, heavy precipitation and flooding associated with summer storms has negatively impacted bobwhite productivity in many parts of central and eastern Kansas. Fortunately, these conditions were absent this year. Counties that reported higher quail reproductive success are Pratt, Reno, Woodson, Phillips, and Rooks.

The best quail hunting will be found throughout the central part of the state. However, extreme southcentral Kansas experienced prolonged drought, likely hampering reproduction. Quail numbers declined considerably in southwestern and northeastern Kansas, and opportunities will likely be limited in those areas. Bobwhite numbers in far northwestern Kansas continue to improve, but that portion of the state is at the fringe of the bird's range, and densities will still be low compared to central Kansas. Although southeast Kansas may see an improvement in reproduction this year, numbers

remain far below historic levels in that region.

## Prairie Chicken

Kansas is home to greater and lesser prairie chickens. Both species require a landscape of predominately native grass. Lesser prairie chickens are found in westcentral and southwestern Kansas in native prairie and nearby stands of native grass within the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Greater prairie chickens are found primarily in the tallgrass and mixed grass prairies in the eastern one-third and northern half of the state.

The spring prairie chicken lek survey indicated that the lesser prairie chicken breeding population was similar to last year, except at the northern extent of their range in westcentral Kansas, where there were increases. This area is occupied by both greater and lesser prairie chickens. Nesting and brood rearing conditions for lesser prairie chickens were generally not good this summer throughout most of their range due to drought in southcentral and southwest Kansas. It is likely that populations will be down from last year, and the best hunting will be in the central and northern portions of the lesser prairie chicken range.

Greater prairie chicken breeding populations were generally down in the eastern parts of the state (Flint Hills), but up considerably in the northcentral (Smoky Hills) and northwest (grasslands in the northern High Plains) parts of Kansas.

In the core of the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas, the majority of occupied habitat was burned again this spring, leaving little nesting cover. While periodic burning is essential to prevent woody encroachment into the prairie, burning the same acreage annually in early spring greatly reduces the potential for successful nesting, even when weather is favorable.



Conditions were comparatively better for production throughout the northern Flint Hills due to less spring burning and more rain-fall. Conditions were good for production throughout most of the Smoky Hills region that spans across northcentral and northwest Kansas. The best greater prairie chicken hunting should again be found in native grasslands from the northern Flint Hills westward throughout the Smoky Hills.

A detailed 2011 Kansas Upland Bird Hunting Forecast is available online at the KDWPT website, [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us). Click "Hunting/Upland Birds/Upland Bird Regional Forecast" for the complete report.

The following table includes the upland birds seasons for 2011. Possession limits are four times the daily bag limits.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL,  
LATE-MIGRATING  
DUCK SEASONS  
FLYING IN**

Despite dry weather, high duck numbers should draw hunters

The summer of 2011 will be remembered in Kansas as one of the driest, hottest on record, and much of Kansas still needs rain this fall. However, high duck numbers will still provide hunters with options, and the early youth waterfowl seasons are just around the corner. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) staff at state waterfowl management areas are working hard to provide hunting opportunities, pumping available water into hunting pools.

As of Sept. 20, the following wildlife areas reported fair to good hunting conditions:

Northwest/Northcentral Kansas

- Cedar Bluff — Fair
- Glen Elder — Fair
- Jamestown — Good
- Norton — Fair
- Wilson — Good
- Northeast Kansas
- Benedictine Bottoms — Good
- Perry — Good
- Tuttle Creek — Fair
- Southwest Kansas
- Cheyenne Bottoms — Good
- Isabel — Fair
- Texas Lake — Fair
- Central Kansas
- Council Grove — Fair
- Southcentral Kansas
- Elk City — Fair
- Fall River — Good
- Marais des Cygnes — Good
- Melvern — Fair
- Toronto — Good
- Pomona — Fair
- Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, near Stafford, reported that

the only open water within the area's hunting zones is in Units 10 and 11 in the Reno County section of the refuge.

Duck season dates and zones include the following:

\* Youth High Plains Zone — Oct. 1-2;

\* Youth Low Plains Early Zone — Oct. 1-2;

\* Youth Low Plains Late Zone — Oct. 22-23;

\* Youth Low Plains Southeast Zone — Oct. 22-23;

\* High Plains Zone — Oct. 8-Jan. 2, 2012, and Jan. 21-29, 2012;

\* Low Plains Early Zone — Oct. 8-Dec. 4, and Dec. 17-Jan. 1, 2012;

\* Low Plains Late Zone — Oct. 29-Jan. 1, 2012, and Jan. 21-29, 2012; and

\* Low Plains Southeast Zone — Nov. 5-Jan. 8, 2012, and Jan. 21-29, 2012.

The Low Plains Southeast Zone, roughly the southeastern one-quarter of the state, is new for 2011-2012 and should provide excellent late-season hunting in this part of the state.

During youth seasons, hunters 15 and younger may take ducks, geese, coots, and mergansers while hunting under the supervision of an adult 18 years or older. The adult may not hunt.

In both youth and regular seasons, six ducks is the daily bag limit, which may include no more than one canvasback, two redheads, two pintails, two scaup, three wood ducks,

and five mallards (only two of which may be hens). The daily bag may comprise six of any other duck, such as six teal, six gadwall, or six wigeon.

Depending on rainfall, good hunting may be found in many other areas of the state, both public and private. For weekly updates on public waterfowl management areas, visit the KDWPT website, [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us), and click "Hunting/Migratory Birds/ Waterfowl Reports."

For a detailed map of the duck zone boundaries and other regulations, pick up a copy of the 2011 Kansas Hunting and Furharvesting Regulations Summary, available at all Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism offices and most license vendors, or download the booklet from the KDWPT website.

## TEAL SEASON BEGINS SEPT. 10

Blue-winged teal migrating in record numbers

The first waterfowl that hunters may pursue each year are teal, and their numbers are generally high. But this year is better than ever. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that blue-winged teal numbers are 91 percent above their long-term average (a record), and green-winged teal numbers, although down from last year, are still 47 percent above their long-term average. This could make for good hunting in the Sunflower State's two September teal hunting zones. A dry,

hot summer has dried up many areas of the state, but there should still be plenty of good hunting in many areas. Weekly waterfowl reports on the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's website, [www.kdwpt.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.ks.us), will begin Sept. 1.

In the Low Plains Zone (all of Kansas east of Highway 283), the season runs Sept. 10-25. In the High Plains Zone (west of Highway 283), the season runs Sept. 17-25.

The daily bag limit is four teal with a possession limit of eight. All waterfowl hunters 16 and older must have a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, and all hunters who are required to obtain a license must also have a Kansas State Waterfowl Habitat Stamp and a Kansas Harvest Information Program (HIP) stamp before attempting to take ducks, geese, or mergansers. (Those not required to have a Kansas hunting license include people hunting their own land and residents 15 and younger or 65 and older.)

## FAILED CORN CROP MANIPULATION MAY MAKE FIELDS OFF-LIMITS TO WATERFOWL HUNTING

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues guidelines, warning

With the recent failed corn crops in Kansas due to this year's drought, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)