

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION ORDER

Last Approved Date: June 11, 2021

Order C05: Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cottontail Rabbit and Squirrels

The following Commission Order is prescribed by the Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-314, 37-315, 37-502, 37-701. For purposes of this Order, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sections 202 through 247 of the Game Law, are used. This Order is effective fifteen (15) days following enactment by the Commission and posting on the Commission's website.

C05.01 Hunting Seasons

C05.01A Rail (Sora and Virginia are the only species allowed to be hunted)

C05.01A1 Open Season: September 1 through November 9, inclusive.

C05.01A2 Daily Bag Limit: Ten (10) in the aggregate.

C05.01A3 Possession limit: Thirty (30) in the aggregate

C05.01A4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01A5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01B Snipe

C05.01B1 Open Season: September 1 through December 16, inclusive.

C05.01B2 Daily Bag Limit: Eight (8).

C05.01B3 Possession limit: Twenty-four (24).

C05.01B4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01B5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified

C05.01C Woodcock

C05.01C1 Open Season: the Saturday closest to October 5 through the Monday closest to November 18.

C05.01C2 Daily Bag Limit: Three (3).

C05.01C3 Possession limit: Nine (9).

C05.01C4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01C5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01D Dove (Mourning, White-winged, and Eurasian Collared are the only species allowed to be hunted)

C05.01D1 Open Season: September 1 through October 30, inclusive, for all legal species. Eurasian collared-doves may also be hunted October 31 through August 31, inclusive.

C05.01D2 Daily Bag Limit: Fifteen (15) in the aggregate.

C05.01D3 Possession limit: Forty-five (45) in the aggregate.

C05.01D4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01D5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01E Grouse (Greater prairie-chicken and Sharp-tailed are the only species allowed to be hunted; Zone Boundaries in C05.01E5).

C05.01E1 Open Season: September 1, through January 31, inclusive.

C05.01E2 Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) in the aggregate. Grouse taken in the East Zone (005.01E5b) must be legally tagged according to provisions of Nebraska Rules and Regulations, Title 163, Chapter 4, Section 005.01A3.

C05.01E3 Possession limit: Twelve (12) in the aggregate, no more than three (3) of which may be legally tagged grouse taken in the East Zone.

C05.01E4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01E5 Area Open: Statewide, within Zones as delineated, except Federal or State sanctuaries or refuges unless otherwise authorized.

C05.01E5a West Zone: That portion of Nebraska lying west of U.S. Hwy. 81.

C05.01E5b East Zone: That portion of Nebraska lying east of U.S. Hwy. 81.

C05.01E6 Special Permit: A special free permit is required for hunting grouse in the East Zone (C05.01E5b). Four hundred (400) permits will be

made available, each allowing the harvest of three (3) grouse in the East Zone. Hunters may obtain no more than one (1) permit. Permit Eligibility may be found in Title 163, Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Part 005.01A.

C05.01F Pheasant

C05.01F1 Open Seasons:

General - Last Saturday in October through January 31.

Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general pheasant season.

C05.01F2 Daily Bag Limit:

General Season - Three (3) cocks.

Youth Season - Two (2) cocks for youth 15 years of age or younger, and one (1) cock for eligible adults as specified in Nebraska Rules and Regulations, Title 163, Chapter 4, Subpart 005.02A2.

C05.01F3 Possession Limit: Twelve (12) cocks.

C05.01F4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01F5 Area Open: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01G Quail

C05.01G1 Open Seasons:

General - The last Saturday in October through January 31.

Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general quail season.

C05.01G2 Daily Bag Limit:

General Season - Six (6).

Youth Season - Two (2).

C05.01G3 Possession Limit: Twenty-four (24).

C05.01G4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01G5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State sanctuaries or refuges unless otherwise authorized.

C05.01H Partridge (Gray [Hungarian] and Chukar are the only species allowed to be hunted)

C05.01H1 Open Seasons:

General - The last Saturday in October through January 31.

Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general partridge season.

C05.01H2 Daily Bag Limit:

General Season - Three (3) birds in the aggregate for all partridge species.

Youth Season - Two (2) birds in the aggregate for all partridge species.

C05.01H3 Possession Limit: Twelve (12) birds in the aggregate.

C05.01H4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01H5 Area Open: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01I Cottontail Rabbit

C05.01I1 Open Season: September 1 through the last day of February, inclusive.

C05.01I2 Daily Bag Limit: Seven (7).

C05.01I3 Possession limit: Twenty-eight (28).

C05.01I4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01I5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.01I6 Cottontail rabbit running season shall be open year round. See Title 163, Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Part 005.05A for running definition.

C05.01J Squirrel

C05.01J1 Open Season: August 1 through January 31, inclusive.

C05.01J2 Daily Bag Limit: Seven (7).

C05.01J3 Possession limit: Twenty-eight (28).

C05.01J4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

C05.01J5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.

C05.02 FURBEARER SEASONS

C05.02A Area Open: Entire state except for Commission-owned or controlled lands, waters or marshes or areas closed by Federal, State or Municipal law. Provided that trapping is permitted on State Wildlife Management Areas and State Recreation Areas in accordance with general state trapping regulations and provided further that any such area or portion thereof may be closed to trapping by proper signs, or as noted in Title 163, Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Section 018, Part 018.06E and Sub-part 018.14C1.

C05.02B Hours Open Each Day: All hours, except opens at 12:01 a.m. opening day.

C05.02C Daily Bag Limit: No limit-except as provided in C05.02E.

C05.02D Possession Limit: No limit-except as provided in C05.02E.

C05.02E Only one (1) river otter may be harvested per season, per valid permit holder.

C05.02F Trapping and Hunting

C05.02F1 Long-tailed Weasel, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Mink and Badger - Open Season: November 1 through the last day in February.

C05.02F2 Bobcat - Open Season: December 1 through the last day in February.

C05.02F3 Striped Skunk - Open Season: Year-round.

C05.02F4 Raccoon and Virginia Opossum - Open Season: November 1 through the last day in February.

C05.02F4a Hunting Only - Open Season: September 1 through October 31.

C05.02G Trapping Only

C05.02G1 Beaver and Muskrat - Open Season: November 1 through March 31.

C05.02G2 River otter – Open Season: November 1 through the last day in February, except the season shall close three days after the harvest closing trigger of 75 river otters is met, whichever comes first.

C05.02H Running - Running season is provided for raccoon, Virginia opossum, bobcat and red fox. Running is defined in Title 163, Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Part 005.06A.

C05.02H1 Raccoon and Virginia Opossum - Open Season: March 1 to two weeks prior to the opening of the raccoon and opossum hunting season.

C05.02H2 Bobcat - Open Season: March 1 to the opening of the bobcat taking season.

C05.02H3 Red Fox - Open Season: March 1 to the opening of the red fox taking season.