

A Birder's Quick Guide to HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting in Massachusetts ramps up in the fall, but that doesn't mean that birders and hunters can't share the outdoors. Learn where and when hunting may be taking place and review these safety tips to enjoy a more relaxed time outside!

2019 Seasons*

Deer	Youth Deer Hunt	Sept. 28
	Archery (Zones 10–14)	Oct. 7–Nov. 30
	Archery (Zones 1–9)	Oct. 21–Nov. 30
	Shotgun	Dec. 2–Dec. 14
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 16–Dec. 31
Turkey	Youth Turkey Hunt	Apr. 25, 2020
	Fall	Oct. 21–Nov. 2
	Spring	Apr. 27–May 22, 2020
Coyote		Oct. 19–Mar. 27, 2020
Bear		Sept. 3–21; Nov. 4–23; Dec. 2–14
Pheasant		Oct. 19–Nov. 30
Waterfowl†		Sept. 2, 2019–Feb. 15, 2020

*Season dates change annually. Full regulations and seasons can be found at mass.gov/hunting.

†These dates are all-inclusive of waterfowl species. Species-specific regulations are found at mass.gov/hunting.

Tips

- Do what the hunters do! Wear a bright orange vest or hat to stay visible. If your dog is venturing out with you, put bright orange on him or her too!
- If you see someone hunting or hear shots, call out to let them know you're there.
- Hunters and birders both want to reduce unnecessary noise. Once you've made your presence know, avoid making excessive noises.
- MassWildlife-owned lands—Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife Conservation Easements—allow hunting.
- Most state parks and forests are open to hunting, and many towns allow hunting on municipal lands.
- Hunting is not permitted on Sundays throughout Massachusetts.

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