

American Crow Regulations; a synopsis:

Under federal laws and regulations, crows are a migratory bird but not a migratory game bird. Existing federal regulations allow the take of crows (consistent with State regulations) under both hunting and depredation order regulations.

Under state laws and regulations, crows are not defined as migratory game birds, but as nongame birds. Take under state regulations is allowed under both hunting and depredation and nuisance provisions.

Under the State hunting regulations, a license is required, a season is established, methods of take are stipulated. Shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Only shotguns, falconry and archery equipment may be used; electronic calls may be used.

(Although the crow regulations are published with the upland bird regulations, since they are not upland game birds, but nongame birds, you cannot use the upland game bird shooting hours regulations, but must go back to the Fish and Game Code, Section 3000, for general shooting hours for birds and mammals.)

Under State depredation regulations, only the landowner or tenants or an others authorized in writing may take crows at any time and in any number to eliminate depredation, health hazard or nuisance. Shotguns, archery and falconry, and toxicants under additional regulations, may be used.

Selected laws and regulations related to American Crows

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Migratory bird defined in § 50CFR10.13 Includes American Crow

Migratory game bird defined in § 50CFR20.11 does not include Corvidae (crows)

Federal hunting regulations for crows are defined in § 50CFR20.133:

§ 20.133 Hunting regulations for crows.

(a) Crows may be taken, possessed, transported, exported, or imported, only in accordance with such laws or regulations as may be prescribed by a State pursuant to this section.

(b) Except in the State of Hawaii, where no crows shall be taken, States may by statute or regulation prescribe a hunting season for crows. Such State statutes or regulations may set forth the method of taking, the bag and possession limits, the dates and duration of the hunting season, and such other regulations as may be deemed appropriate, subject to the following limitations for each State:

(1) Crows shall not be hunted from aircraft;

(2) The hunting season or seasons on crows shall not exceed a total of 124 days during a calendar year;

(3) Hunting shall not be permitted during the peak crow nesting period within a State; and

(4) Crows may only be taken by firearms, bow and arrow, and falconry.

Federal depredation order for crows as defined in § 50CFR21.43:

§ 21.43 Depredation order for blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows and magpies.

A Federal permit shall not be required to control yellow-headed redwinged, rusty, and Brewer's blackbirds, cowbirds, all grackles, crows, and magpies, when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance: *Provided:*

(a) That none of the birds killed pursuant to this section, nor their plumage, shall be sold or offered for sale, but may be possessed, transported, and otherwise disposed of or utilized.

(b) That any person exercising any of the privileges granted by this section shall permit at all reasonable times including during actual operations, any Federal or State game or deputy game agent, warden, protector, or other game law enforcement officer free and unrestricted access over the premises on which such operations have been or are being conducted; and shall furnish promptly to such officer whatever information he may require, concerning said operations.

(c) That nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the killing of such birds contrary to any State laws or regulations; and that none of the privileges granted under this section shall be exercised unless the person possesses whatever permit as may be required for such activities by the State concerned.
[39 FR 1178, Jan. 4, 1974, as amended at 54 FR 47525, Nov. 15, 1989]

Fish and Game Code

General Shooting Hours for Birds and Mammals defined in § 3000

It is unlawful to take any bird or mammal, except a nongame mammal, between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise of the following day at the place of taking, except as otherwise provided in this code or under such regulations as the commission may adopt. The commission may adopt regulations prohibiting the taking of any nongame mammal between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise of the following day at the place of taking

Migratory game birds defined in § 3500

3500. Resident game birds are: Chinese spotted doves, ringed turtledoves of the family Columbidae, California quail and varieties thereof, Gambel or desert quail, mountain quail and varieties thereof, sooty or blue grouse and varieties thereof, ruffed grouse, sage hens and sage grouse, Hungarian partridges, red-legged partridges including the chukar and other varieties, ring-necked pheasants and varieties, and wild turkeys of the order Galliformes.

Migratory game birds are: ducks and geese, coots and gallinules, jacksnipe, western mourning doves, white-winged doves and band-tailed pigeons. References in this code to "game birds" means both resident game birds and migratory game birds.

License to take any bird or mammal, defined in § 3007

3007. Every person who takes any bird or mammal shall procure a license or permit therefor.