

| Game species | 2026 Open season dates | Daily hunting times | Bag limit | Hunting locations | Hunting methods |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| Deer | | | | | |
| Hog Deer | 1 April – 30 April | From 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset each day. | One male and one female during open season | Deer can be hunted on some public land classifications , and on private land with the permission of the landowner/manager. | Specified firearm/bows . Hog Deer tags required. Only approved dog breeds can be used to hunt deer. Spotlights cannot be used to hunt game on public land, with exceptions . For more information on hunting laws, visit: Deer - Game Management Authority |
| Red Deer | All year | | No limit | | |
| Sambar Deer (stalking only) | All year | | No limit | | |
| Sambar Deer (hound hunting) | 1 April until 2 April (inclusive) and then reopens on 9 April until 30 November (inclusive). | | No limit | | |
| Fallow Deer | All year | | No limit | | |
| Chital Deer | All year | | No limit | | |
| Rusa Deer | All year | | No limit | | |
| Duck¹ | | | | | |
| Pacific Black Duck | 18 March until 8 June 2026 (inclusive). | 8am until 30 minutes after sunset for first five days of the open season, then 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. | Nine game ducks per day | Game ducks can be hunted on some public wetlands and on private land with the permission of the landowner/manager during the open season. Note: wetlands can be closed or hunting further regulated at short notice to protect threatened species, breeding waterbirds or other management reasons. | Shotgun only, not exceeding 12-gauge. Lead shot is prohibited. Hunters are required to use non-toxic shot only . Only approved gundog breeds can be used to hunt ducks. For more information on hunting laws, visit: Duck hunting methods and laws - Game Management Authority |
| Grey Teal | | | | | |
| Mountain Duck | | | | | |
| Wood Duck | | | | | |
| Chestnut Teal | | | | | |
| Hardhead Duck | | | | | |
| Pink-eared Duck | | | | | |
| Native quail | | | | | |
| Stubble Quail | 4 April until 30 June 2026 (inclusive). | From 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset each day. | 20 birds per day | Stubble Quail can be hunted on private property with the permission of the landholder and on 16 public land State Game Reserves and other areas of public land as permitted. | Shotgun only, not exceeding 12 gauge. Lead shot is prohibited. Hunters are required to use non-toxic shot only . Electronic quail callers are prohibited . |

¹ NB. Blue-winged Shoveler and Latham’s Snipe are also game birds however they have a year-round closed season due to their threatened status.

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| | | | | | <p>Only approved gundog breeds can be used to hunt Stubble Quail.</p> <p>For more information on hunting laws, visit: Stubble Quail - Game Management Authority.</p> |
| Introduced game birds | | | | | |
| Pheasant species Partridge species European Quail Californian Quail Japanese Quail | All year | From 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset each day. | No limit | Hunting can occur on public lands where permitted and private land with the permission of the landowner/manager. There are no wild populations of these species currently in Victoria and hunting therefore occurs on commercially-licensed private game bird farms. | Shotgun only, not exceeding 12 gauge. Lead shot is prohibited. Hunters are required to use non-toxic shot only . Only approved gundog breeds can be used to hunt introduced game birds For more information on hunting laws, visit: Introduced game birds - Game Management Authority . |

| What's changed / new laws | More information |
|---|--|
| New gamebird hunters and hunters renewing their gamebird licence must complete online education modules and knowledge tests, before being issued with a Game Licence to hunt gamebirds in Victoria. | Changes to gamebird licensing conditions - Game Management Authority |
| Lead shot banned for hunting game birds. | Non-toxic shot types - Game Management Authority |
| Deer hunters can now use hand-held thermal imaging devices during the daytime. | Deer hunting methods - Game Management Authority |
| Deer decoys can now be used for hunting deer with some restrictions. | Deer hunting methods - Game Management Authority |
| Possession of a spotlight and firearm at night now also illegal in West Wimmera and Moyne Shires. | Deer hunting methods - Game Management Authority |
| Bluetick and Black and Tan Coonhounds can now be used for hound hunting Sambar deer. | Hunting with hounds - Game Management Authority |
| 2026 wetlands closed/further regulated for duck hunting. | Wetland closures - Game Management Authority |