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. Note, hunting with dogs is not permitted in national parks and some other parks -visit Where to hunt - Game Management Authority.	Specified firearm/bows/crossbows only. Hog Deer tags required. Only approved dog breeds can be used to hunt deer. Spotlights, except hand-held thermal devices during the day, cannot be used to hunt game on public land. For more information on hunting laws, visit: Deer - Game Management Authority
Red Deer	All year (except in some parks*)		No limit		
Sambar Deer (stalking only)	All year (except in some parks*)		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 (except in some parks*)		No limit		
Chital Deer	All year (except in some parks*)		No limit		
Rusa Deer	All year(except in some parks*)		No limit		
Duck[1]					
Pacific Black Duck Grey Teal Mountain Duck Wood Duck Chestnut Teal Hardhead Duck Pink-eared 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 in 2026	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
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.

[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.
* See Where to hunt - Game Management Authority for information on where and when you can hunt in national, state, wilderness, coastal and regional parks.

Game species	2026 Open season dates	Daily hunting times	Bag limit	Hunting locations	Hunting methods
					Electronic quail callers are prohibited. Only approved gundog breeds can be used to hunt Stubble Quail. For more information on hunting laws, visit: Stubble Quail - Game Management Authority.
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 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 prohibited for hunting all game birds (now includes Stubble Quail and non-indigenous gamebirds in addition to game ducks).	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