

# Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Austria*



Updated in June 2016

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

**Name of main legislation:** In Austria hunting law is a federal state issue, therefore 9 different hunting laws exist. Names of federal states are abbreviated after first use.

Bgld. Jagdgesetz 2004 (Burgenland [B]), Kärntner Jagdgesetz 2000 - K-JG (Kärnten [K]), NÖ Jagdgesetz 1974 (NÖ JG) (Niederösterreich [NÖ]), Oö. Jagdgesetz (Oberösterreich [OÖ]), Jagdgesetz 1993 (Salzburg [S]), Steiermärkisches Jagdgesetz 1986 (Steiermark [ST]), Tiroler Jagdgesetz 2004 (Tirol [T]), Gesetz über das Jagdwesen (Vorarlberg [V]), Wiener Jagdgesetz (Wien [W]).

**Year of publication:** B 2004, K 2000, NÖ 1974, OÖ 1964, S 1993, ST 1986, T 2004, V 1988, W 1947

**Supporting legislation:** Federal states Nature Conservation Acts and Regulations listing protected fauna with exception of species listed in hunting law and flora species, Federal states Animal Protection Acts, Federal states Environment Protection Acts, Countryside Protection Acts, Cave Protection Acts, Tourism Acts; Federal Forestry Act of 1975; Federal Meat Control Act of 1982; Federal Animal Diseases Act of 1909, Federal Weapons Act of 1996; several Federal Meat Hygiene Regulations and the Federal Regulation for Game Meat of 1994

**Legislation updates:** B 2016, K 2013, NÖ 2015, OÖ 2013, S 2015, ST 2015, T 2015, V 2016, W 2013 (only the last updates)

**Hunting legislation (web link):** All legislation could be found on the website:  
<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/>

**Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link):** 1st Instance: district administrations, 2nd Instance: state government

### Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe):

A major shortage is that in principal all species listed in the hunting laws are huntable (all birds of prey and owls species, some species of waterfowl, herons, galliformes, crows, pigeons and songbirds) regardless their threatening status. Some of the listed species are protected the whole year, for other species hunting seasons are defined. Species which are protected the whole year could be hunted under derogations for example for pest control.

Species which are regulated in the hunting law are often not regulated in the nature conservation laws, despite their often high threat status (e.g. birds of prey and owls).

Use of lead ammunition is not generally forbidden through the hunting laws (but in some areas like national parks).

### Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention):

There are several derogations for example the spring hunting of grouse species (*Tetrao urogallus*, *Lyrurus tetrix*; Article 9c), the hunting of Carrion Crow, Herons and Cormorants (Article 9a) and the Salzkammergut bird-catching (Article 9c, see below). Reasons for derogation are pest control measures (EU Bird Directive Article 9a) and reasons according EU Bird Directive Article 9c.

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An outstanding negative example has been the Act for hunting of Common Buzzard and Goshawk in NÖ (2008-2014).

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
<b>Hunting</b>	<p>In Austria the hunting system is called <i>Reviersystem (territorial system)</i>. That means hunting and related activities are restricted to the person who are entitled to hunt in each <i>Revier</i> (hunting territory area). Hunters need a hunting permit. Therefore hunters must pass an examination. Hunting is permitted in certain season for certain species (see below).</p> <p>Authorised hunting methods are hunting with a rifle/shotgun, falconry, hunting with terriers underground and shooting with an Eagle-owl decoy</p> <p>There are several restrictions which differ between the federal states.</p>	
<b>Trapping</b>	<p>Trapping of corvids or some corvid-species are allowed due to legislative regulations by the state (K, OÖ, ST) or due derogation at district level (B, NÖ, S, T and V).</p> <p>Special is the Salzkammergut bird-catching. Woodland-birds like Crossbill, Bullfinch etc. are caged for traditional reasons during autumn. The caged birds were shown on exhibitions and released at spring time.</p>	

## HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Hunting seasons differ in the different federal states. In the 'Open Hunting Season' column are given the maximum opening season for each huntable species and regional differences are mentioned in the 'Notes' column.

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
1.3.-15.4./11.9.-19.2.	Eurasian Woodcock	1.3.-15.4./1.10.-31.12. (B) 11.9.-19.2. (OÖ, ST, W) 11.9.-31.1 (V)
16.8.-30.11.	Common Snipe	(B)
1.5.-15.6/1.10.-28.3.	Rackelhahn (hybrid <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> x <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i> )	1.-31.5/1.10.-28.3. (NÖ) 1.5.-31.5. (OÖ) 1.5.-15.6. (S)
16.9.-30.11.	Grey Partridge	16.-30.9./16.-30.11. (NÖ) 21.9.-31.10. (OÖ) 16.9.-30.11. (B) 21.9.-30.11. (W) 1.10.-31.10. (K) 1.10.-30.11. (ST)

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1.5.-15.6.	Black Grouse	(T)
1.9./30.11.	Hazel Grouse	1.9.-31.10. (NÖ, OÖ) 15.9.-15.10. (T) 16.9.-15.11. (male, K) 1.9.-30.11. (male, ST)
15.4.-15.5.	Western Capercaillie	only in odd years (T)
1.9.-30.9.	Common Quail	(B)
21.9-31.1.	Common Pheasant	Introduced species 21.9.-31.1. (V) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ, S, W; male (ST)) 16.10.-31.12. (female, ST) 16.10.-31.12. (male, K, OÖ) 16.11.-31.12. (female, OÖ) 1.10.-15.1. (T) 1.10.-15.1. (male, B), 1.11.-31.12. (female, B)
16.6.-15.4.	Eurasian Collared-dove	16.6.-31.1. (ST) 1.8.-31.12. (S) 15.9.-31.1. (NÖ) 21.10.-20.2. (K, OÖ, W) 21.10.-31.1. (V) 1.7.-15.4. (B)
1.7.-15.4	Common Woodpigeon (ST)	15.3.-15.4/16.6.-31.1. (ST) 1.7.-15.4. (B) 1.8.-31.12. (S, K (flocks)), 1.9.-31.1. (NÖ, OÖ, V, K (solitary birds)) 1.10.-15.1. (T) 1.11.-31.1. (W)
1.7.-10.4	European Turtle-dove	1.7.-31.10. (B) 15.9.-31.1. (NÖ) 1.9.-10.4. (W)
1.8.-31.1.	Bean Goose	1.8.-31.1. (B, NÖ) 1.8.-10.1. (W) 1.9.-31.1. (K) 1.9.-31.12. (OÖ, S, ST)
1.8.-31.1.	Greylag Goose	1.8.-31.1. (B, NÖ, W) 1.9.-31.1. (K) 1.9.-31.12. (OÖ, S, ST),
1.8.-31.1	Canada Goose	Introduced species 1.8.-31.1. (B) 1.9.-31.1. (K)
1.8.-10.3.	Common Coot	1.8.-28.2./29.2. (NÖ) 21.9.-10.3. (K, W) 1.9.-31.12. (ST) 21.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 21.9.-31.1. (V) 1.9.-31.1. (S)

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		16.8.-31.12. (B)
16.8.-31.12.	Eurasian Wigeon	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.12.	Gadwall	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.1.	Common Teal	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.1. (V) 1.9.-31.12. (K, ST) 16.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.1.	Mallard	16.8.-31.12. (B, S) 1.9.-31.1. (V) 1.9.-31.12. (K, NÖ, ST) 16.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 1.9.-15.1. (W) 1.10.-15.1. (T)
16.8.-31.12.	Northern Pintail	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.12.	Garganey	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.12.	Northern Shoveler	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.1.	Common Pochard	16.8.-31.12. (B) 1.9.-31.1. (V) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 16.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 1.9.-15.1. (W) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-31.1.	Tufted Duck	16.8.-31.12. (B, S) 1.9.-31.1. (V) 1.9.-31.12. (K) 16.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 21.9.-31.1. (W) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
16.8.-15.1	Common Goldeneye	16.8.-31.12. (B) 16.9.-31.12. (OÖ) 1.9.-15.1. (W) 1.10.-31.12. (NÖ)
1.9.-30.9.	Mute Swan	(V)
1.9.-31.1.	Grey Heron	(S)
1.10.-30.4.	Great Cormorant	(S)
1.7.-31.1.	Black-headed Gull	1.7.-31.1. (S) 1.9.-31.12. (V)

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1.8.-28.2.	Eurasian Jay	(S)
1.8.-28.2.	Black-billed Magpie	(S)
1.8.-28.2.	Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow	(S)

## TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Trapping seasons differ in the different federal states. In the 'Open Trapping Season' column are given the maximum opening season for each takable species and regional differences are mentioned in the 'Notes' column.

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
15.9.-30.11.	Goldfinch, Eurasian Siskin, Red Crossbill, Eurasian Bullfinch	all in OÖ, in context of the Salzkammergut bird-catching
16.7.-15.3.	Eurasian Jay	1.8.-15.3. (B, NÖ) - in NÖ, only due to derogation 16.7.-15.3. (K)
16.7.-15.3.	Black-billed Magpie	1.8.-15.3. (B, NÖ) 16.7.-15.3. (K) 1.8.-28./29.2. (OÖ)
1.7.-31.3.	Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow	1.7.-31.3. (B, NÖ) - in NÖ, only due to derogation 16.7.-15.3. (K) 1.7.-28./29.2. (OÖ) – only Carrion Crow
16.7.-15.3.	Raven	(K) only due to derogation

## TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
No, but hunting permission for special species are for sale e.g. Western Capercaillie.	
Legislation on "pest species"	Notes
Hunting of some species which are not regulated by the hunting law are due a derogation of the nature conservation law possible for several species in several federal states, for example Rook (B), Cormorant (NÖ, K), Grey Heron (NÖ). There are derogation for shooting and hunting of Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow, Black-billed Magpie and Eurasian Jay in B, NÖ, S, T and V. Legislative regulation by state for Carrion Crow (K, OÖ, S), Black-billed Magpie (K, OÖ, S), Eurasian Jay (K, S).	

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