

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Bulgaria*



Updated in August 2016

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: The Hunting and Game Protection Law

Year of publication: 26.09.2000

Supporting legislation: Implementing Regulations of the Hunting and Game Protection Law

Legislation updates: 19.02.2016

Hunting legislation (web link): <http://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134941184>

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): Ministry of agriculture and food
<http://www.mzh.government.bg/mzh/en/Home.aspx>

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): None

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): None

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

| | Legal methods/restrictions | Notes |
|---------|---|--|
| Hunting | <p>Hunting is permitted in certain seasons and for certain species (see below).</p> <p>Only specific types of rifles is allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hunting is done with smooth or grooved firearms hunting weapons. • When the gun is semi-automatic, it cannot be loaded with more than one plus two rounds in the store. • Hunting weapons cannot be automatic • When hunting it is prohibited to use the following tools and methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (amend. - SG. 6, 2009) firearms, complying with the requirements of Art. 56 para. 1 and 2 and crossbows; 2. traps, snares and nets, glues and pits (pits) would apply to indiscriminate hunting or killing; 3. poisonous or narcotic substances and bait such substances; 4. (amend. - SG. 79 of 2002) electric sound reproducing devices and artificial light sources and fixtures to illuminate the target; 5. mirrors and other dazzling; 6. electrical devices capable of killing or stunning; | <p>Prohibited devices, methods and tools for capture and killing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snare loops with glue (Clay Bird), hooks, live birds, including blind or mutilated used as decoys; - Sound, electrical and electronic devices capable of killing or stunning; - Artificial light sources, mirrors and other dazzling, devices for illuminating targets, sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic converter magnifier or image; - Explosives; - Nets, traps, poison or drugs; - Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding |

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|------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>7. (suppl. - SG. 91 of 2008) live animals used as bait, as well as blind or disabled;</p> <p>8. explosives, gas or smoke;</p> <p>9. facilities for night shooting comprising an electronic converter magnifier or image;</p> <p>10. vehicles;</p> <p>11. aircraft;</p> | <p>more than two rounds;</p> <p>- The use of permanent facilities - hide for hunting waterfowl;</p> <p>- Hunting with birds of prey (This will change as the Falconry lobby in Bulgaria is lobbying very actively in this direction!!!)</p> <p>- The use of lead shot in hunting in wetlands and at a distance of 200 meters around them</p> |
| <p>Trapping</p> | <p>Any form of trapping is illegal in the common terms of the regular hunting practices.</p> <p>Trapping is strictly regulated in Bulgaria. Trapping is only allowed in few specific situations</p> <p>Regulation of certain types of game and catching live game can be carried out and by other appropriate means in terms and conditions set out in the regulations for implementing the law.</p> <p>They can be used with very strict control and for specific purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traps for selective hunting. 2. Selective cluster traps for predator hunting <p>"Mesh devices" are structures/ traps used to catch wild birds and mammals. They are used in dedicated hunting reserves strictly for game species regarding their artificial breeding or displacement.</p> | |

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

| Open Hunting Season | Legally huntable species | Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|
| From 15 April to 15 May | Western Capercaillie | |
| From 1 st October to 31 January | Common Pheasant | Introduced species |
| From 1 st October to 30 November | Grey Partridge, Rock Partridge, Chukar | |
| From the second Saturday of August to 30 November | Common Quail | |
| On the second Saturday of August to the second Sunday of February | Common Woodpigeon | |
| On the second Saturday of August to 30 November | European Turtle-dove | |
| On the second Saturday of August to 31 December | Eurasian Collared-dove | |

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| | | |
|--|---|--|
| From 1 st October to 31 January | Greater White-fronted Goose, Mallard, Garganey, Common Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Ferruginous duck, Tufted duck, Northern Pintail, Common Coot | |
| On the second Saturday of August to the last day of February | Eurasian Woodcock, Common Snipe | |
| All-year round | Common Starling, Black-billed Magpie, Hooded crow (Carrion crow subspecies), Rook, Eurasian Jackdaw | |

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

| Open Trapping Season | Legally trapped species | Notes |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Trapping of birds is completely illegal as hunting practices in Bulgaria (See exceptions above and in the Notes) | N/A | For scientific or conservation purposes with special permits and approval of the trapping methods by the Ministry of Environment and Water certain rare species like Red breasted geese, Egyptian vulture, Imperial eagle and other has been caught. |

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

| Legal trade | Notes |
|---|---|
| Only with permit but no permits have been issued to this day for native Bulgarian species. | There is import and transit of exotic species such as parrots, birds of prey and other sp. Supported by CITES documents and with regards to Regulation 339/97 and Regulation 865/2006. |
| Legislation on “pest species” | Notes |
| It is allowed to hunt for the “pest species „ during the whole year. This species can be hunted only with the officially approved ways. | There is no dedicated term “pest species” in the legislation. However the species below are considered more or less as a pest in some cases. They are the only species that can be hunted during the whole year, but in the reality this is a rare practice. Common Starling, Black-billed Magpie, Hooded crow (Carrion crow subspecies), Rook, Eurasian Jackdaw |

NGO: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria

Contact Person: Dimitar Gradinarov

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