

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: Sweden



Updated in August 2016

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Jaktlag (1987:259) and Jaktförordning (1987:905)

Year of publication: 1987

Supporting legislation:

- Vapenlag (1996:67) - Weapon legislation
- Vapenförordning (1996:70) - Weapon legislation
- Lag (2000:592) om viltvårdsområden - Game areas legislation
- Viltskadeförordning (2001:724) - Game damage legislation
- Artskyddsförordning (2007:845) - Species protection legislation
- Djurskyddslag (1988:534) - Animal protection legislation
- Djurskyddsförordning (1988:539) - Animal protection legislation

Legislation updates: Can be seen in the names of the legislations

Hunting legislation (web link): <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/19870259.HTM> and <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/19870905.HTM>

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): Swedish Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/>

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): Any bird nest is allowed to be removed including eggs and young if it is situated on/in your house or on/in your farm and causing a major damage or major inconvenience

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

- Pesticide hunting of Barnacle Goose is permitted and the species is listed both in EU Birds Directive annex 1 and Bern convention annex 2
- Pesticide hunting of Eurasian Tree Sparrow is permitted and the species is not listed in EU Birds Directive annex 2 and not listed Bern convention annex 3 as species not included in the general protection of birds
- Pesticide hunting of House Sparrow is permitted and the species is not listed in EU Birds Directive annex 2, but is listed Bern convention annex 3 as species not included in the general protection of birds

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	Hunting can be done with both shot guns and small calibre rifles. Hunting can be done with by using a dog to flush the game or	Regulations are that Steel pellets are to be used when hunting at wetlands but in forests and fields lead pellets are still allowed.

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	from hides with decoys or from boats using decoys.	
Trapping	<p>Permitted for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hooded Crows (Carrion Crows subspecies), Black-billed Magpies and Eurasian jackdaws (Crow-traps) - Black-billed Magpies and Eurasian jackdaws (Magpie traps) - Gulls (Gull traps) - Northern Goshawk (Goshawk traps) - Common Pheasant (Pheasant traps) - Mallard (Mallard traps) - Grey partridge (Grey partridge traps) - Doves/pigeons (Dove traps) - Black Grouse (Black grouse traps) - Willow Grouse and Ptarmigan (Grouse traps) <p>No other trapping methods for birds are allowed unless it is for scientific use where all the ringing of birds come in. Use of mist nets are prohibited unless for bird ringing usage. The only method to trap birds that are lethal to the birds are the grouse traps for Ptarmigan and Willow grouse. These traps are noose traps catching the necks.</p>	<p>Crow trap is a large cage (One can stand in it where the birds can get in by a hole in the roof but has hard to get out. This trap is permitted to catch crows, jackdaws and magpies with this. The birds are after catching killed in a legitimate way, like shoot or wring the neck.</p> <p>Magpie traps are small cages with a door/roof that close when the bird has triggered the latch inside the cage. It is used for catching magpies and jackdaws. The birds are after catching killed in a legitimate way, like shoot or wring the neck.</p> <p>Gull traps are small cages with a door/roof that close when the bird has triggered the latch inside the cage. It is used for catching gulls. The birds are after catching killed in a legitimate way, like shoot or wring the neck.</p> <p>Goshawk traps are used in game estates to catch Northern Goshawks to transport them away from the gaming area. They are transported at least 30 km often 50 km away and released.</p> <p>Black Grouse traps are used to catch black grouses when lekking. Thereby it is used only in scientific purpose.</p> <p>Pheasant, Grey Partridge and Mallard traps are cages where the birds have easy to get in, but hard to find the exit. The birds are lured into the traps with food. The birds are after catching killed in a legitimate way, like shoot or wring the neck or collected to be released again for hunting purpose at gaming estates.</p> <p>Dove traps are different sorts of cage traps catching doves and they are mostly used in towns for pesticide handling of Feral pigeons.</p> <p>Grouse traps are nooses used to snare Ptarmigan and Willow grouse. It is hideous that this is still allowed in Sweden. This is the only trapping method that kills the birds. This traps are together with foot nooses for foxes are the only trapping methods using nooses. It is disgrace that this is still allowed in Sweden. It is only permitted north of the 58 degrees north and it origins from Lapp tradition. It is approved by EU since it has to do with original inhabitants, in this case the Lapps (reindeer owners). It still possible to buy noose snared grouses at restaurants in the north especially close to the mountain region (Fjällen)</p>

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
11/8-31/12	Greylag goose	In all regions except in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gotlands län (20/7-31/12, but only on main island and on Fårö. No hunting all other islands) - Norrbottens län (21/8-30/9. Along border river to Finland Hunting, 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 30/9 - Same rules as in Finland)
1/10-31/12 and only from first light until 11:00 each day	Bean goose	Only in Skåne län and Blekinge län (no hunting in other regions)
1/10-31/12 and only from first light until 11:00 each day	Greater White-fronted goose	Only in Skåne län (no hunting in other regions)
11/8-31/12	Canada goose	Introduced species In all regions except in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län (21/8-31/12) - Norrbottens län (21/8-30/9. Along border river to Finland Hunting, 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 30/9 - Same rules as in Finland)
21/8-30/11	Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal	21/8-31/12 in Skåne län, Blekinge län, Gotlands län 21/8-30/11 in Hallands län, Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län, Södermanlands län, Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län 25/8-30/11 in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län
21/8-31/12	Mallard	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-30/11
21/8-31/1	Tufted duck	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-31/1 (Norrbottens län, along border river to Finland Hunting: 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 31/1 - Same rules as in Finland)
21/8-31/1	Common Eider	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län (25/8-31/1) (Norrbottens län, along border river to Finland Hunting: 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 31/1 - Same rules as in Finland)
21/8-30/11 and 1/12-31/1 (only coastal areas)	Common Scooter, Long-tailed duck	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-30/11 and 1/12-31/1 (only coastal areas). (Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län and Norrbottens län: no hunting permitted in the mountain areas)

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		(Norrbottens län, along border river to Finland: 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 30/11 - Same rules as in Finland)
21/8-31/1	Common Goldeneye, Goosander	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-31/1 (Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län and Norrbottens län: no hunting permitted in the mountain areas) (Norrbottens län, along border river to Finland: 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 31/1 - Same rules as in Finland)
21/8-30/11	Merganser	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-30/11
25/8-15/11	Hazel Grouse	No hunting in Skåne län and Gotlands län 25/8-30/9 in Blekinge län, Hallands län, Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län 25/8-15/11 in Södermanlands län, Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län, Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län
25/8-31/1	Black grouse, Western Capercaillie	Only males 1-15/9 and 1/1-31/1 in Skåne län 25/8-30/9 and males also 1/1-31/1 in Blekinge län, Hallands län, Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län 25/8-15/11 and males also 16/11-31/1 in Södermanlands län, Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län, Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län No hunting in Gotlands län
25/8-15/11	Willow Grouse, Rock Ptarmigan	25/8-15/11 in Värmlands län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län 25/8-15/11 in Dalarnas län, except for Älvdalen area where hunting is allowed 25/8-28/2 (29/2) 25/8-28/2 (29/2) in Jämtlands län 25/8-31/1 for coastal areas and 25/8-15/3 for inland and mountain areas in Västerbotten län and Norrbottens län No hunting in other regions
1/10-31/1	Common Pheasant	Introduced species In all regions
16/9-31/10	Grey partridge	In all regions except in Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: no hunting
21/8-30/11	Eurasian Woodcock	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 21/8-31/10
1/8-31/3	Great Black-backed Gull, European Herring gull, Mew gull	In all regions
16/8-31/12	Common Woodpigeon	16/8-28/2 (29/2) in Skåne län, Blekinge län, Hallands län

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		16/8-31/12 in Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Gotlands län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län, Södermanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län 16/8-31/10 in Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län 1/8-31/10 in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län
21/8-31/3	Fieldfare	In all regions
1/7-15/4	Eurasian Jackdaw, Hooded crow, Black-billed Magpie	In all regions except in Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 16/7-30/4
1/8-28/8	Rook	1/8-28/8 in Skåne län and Hallands län No hunting in all other regions
16/7-31/3	Eurasian Jay	In all regions

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
1/7-15/4	Hooded Crow Black-billed Magpie Common Jackdaw	It also possible to use traps in “pesticide” hunting of the species and then the period is all-year around (see below)
16/7-31/3	Eurasian Jay	It also possible to use traps in “pesticide” hunting of the species and then the period is all-year around (see below)
1/8-31/3	Great Black-backed Gull, European Herring gull, Mew gull	It also possible to use traps in “pesticide” hunting of the species and then the period is all-year around (see below)
Only pesticide hunting	Feral pigeon	Only huntable as pesticide species but as that all-year around (see below)
16/8-31/12	Common Woodpigeon	16/8-28/2 (29/2) in Skåne län, Blekinge län, Hallands län 16/8-31/12 in Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Gotlands län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län, Södermanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län 16/8-31/10 in Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län 1/8-31/10 in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län
No season	Northern Goshawk	No season since it they are caught to be relocalized all-year around
1/10-31/1	Common Pheasant	
21/8-31/12	Mallard	In all regions except in Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: 25/8-30/11
16/9-31/10	Grey partridge	In all regions except in Västernorrlands län, Jämtlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län: no hunting

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No season	Black Grouse	No season since it is only used for scientific purpose and the birds are released alive after catching
25/8-15/11	Willow Grouse and Rock Ptarmigan	25/8-15/11 in Värmlands län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län 25/8-15/11 in Dalarnas län, except for Älvdalen area where hunting is allowed 25/8-28/2 (29/2) 25/8-28/2 (29/2) in Jämtlands län 25/8-31/1 for coastal areas and 25/8-15/3 for inland and mountain areas in Västerbotten län and Norrbottens län

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
Greater White-fronted Goose Greylag Goose Eurasian Wigeon Common Teal Mallard Northern Pintail Northern Shoveler Common Pochard Tufted Duck Greater Scaup Common Eider Common Scooter Willow Grouse Rock Ptarmigan Western Capercaillie Grey Partridge Common Pheasant Common Coot European Golden Plover Jack Snipe Common Snipe Eurasian Woodcock Common Woodpigeon	<p>Sweden has implemented the Bird directive and is following that when it comes to trading with species. Listed are birds that are allowed to trade with in Sweden.</p> <p>There is possibilities to get special permits to trade with birds according to CITES directives.</p>
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
Greylag Goose Bean Goose (NT) Canada Goose Barnacle Goose Ruddy Duck Great Black-backed Gull European Herring Gull (VU) Mew gull Black-headed Gull Feral pigeon Common Woodpigeon Fieldfare	<p>These are the bird species seen as “pesticide” species in Sweden. The hunting legislation then gives landowners possibility to hunt these species if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The included Geese species visiting unharvested fields 2) Any of listed species that are a sanitary inconvenience 3) Any of the listed species except the geese if they are in a facility to stop damage from the species. 4) Any of the listed species except the geese if they are in farming crops or in a garden centre to stop damage from the species. 5) Any of the listed species except the geese if it is a special assignment from municipal executive boards handling the topics of environment and protection of health

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<p>Common Blackbird Common Starling Common Raven Eurasian Jackdaw Hooded crow Rook Black-billed Magpie House Sparrow Eurasian Tree Sparrow</p>	<p>6) The included gull species and Ravens visiting airfields The legislation gives land-owners possibility to do this “pesticide control” without any special permits from authorities.</p> <p>7) Common Blackbird and Common Starling are allowed to hunt as pesticides in commercial fruit orchards and commercial gardens</p> <p>Pesticide species can be hunted by either shooting or by traps if there is an approved trap for the species.</p> <p>Most of these “pesticide” species can be regulated all-year round in all regions, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bean Goose: 1/1-15/3 in Skåne län, Blekinge län. 1/9-31/10 in Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län (in some areas only), Örebro län. No pesticide hunting allowed in other regions - Barnacle Goose: 15/8-15/11 in Skåne län, Blekinge län, Kalmar län, Gotlands län, Östergötlands län, Södermanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län. No pesticide hunting allowed in other regions - Common Woodpigeon: 1/3-31/8 in Skåne län, Blekinge län, Hallands län. 1/5-15/8 in Kalmar län, Kronobergs län, Jönköpings län, Gotlands län, Östergötlands län, Västra Götalands län, Södermanlands län. 1/5-31/7 in Värmlands län, Örebro län, Västmanlands län, Stockholms län, Uppsala län, Dalarnas län, Gävleborgs län, Jämtlands län, Västernorrlands län, Västerbotten län, Norrbottens län - Common Blackbird and Common Starling: 1/7-30/9 all over Sweden <p>In Skåne, it is seen as “pesticide regulation” to kill rook fledglings in spring, 10th of May to 10th of June. This is the only occurrence in the legislation where it is stated the fledgling of a certain species are to be removed like that. This clearly covers up for the former hunting of young rooks that where served as a luxury dish at countryside taverns across Skåne in the past....</p>
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