

AUTUMN HUNTING

Hunting on land

- The autumn hunting season is open from 1st September 2025 to 31st January 2026.
- Between 15th September 2025 and 7th October 2025, hunting is permitted from two hours before sunrise to 7pm.
- For the remainder of the season, hunting is permitted from two hours before sunrise until two hours after sunset.
- On Sundays and public holidays, hunting is not permitted after 1pm.
- Hunting at Majjistrat Park is only allowed from two hours before sunrise until noon. However, on Wednesdays and public holidays, hunting is only allowed from two hours before sunrise until 10am.
- It is legal to hunt for 40 species from land. All other species are protected by national and international law.
- Out of these, European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) can only be hunted between 1st September 2025 and 30th September 2025.
- The overall bag limit for the autumn hunting season for European Turtle-dove is 500.
- It is illegal to hunt or possess a firearm or trapping equipment in a Bird Sanctuary (Table 1).
- It is illegal to use electronic callers.
- It is illegal to have a shotgun capable of firing more than three shots in succession.
- It is illegal to hunt within 50 metres of a main road.
- It is illegal to hunt within 50 metres of a beach (Table 2).
- It is illegal to hunt within 200 metres of a residential area (i.e. an area with more than 100 residents).
- It is illegal to hunt under the legal age of 18.

Hunting on sea

- Hunting of birds at sea is permitted between 1st October 2025 and 31st January 2026.
- It is illegal to hunt at sea within 3 km of the shoreline.
- It is legal to hunt for 12 species at sea. All other species are protected by national and international law.

Bird Sanctuaries
Addolorata Cemetery and within 50 metres of any other cemetery
Salina
Marsa Sports Ground
San Anton Gardens and all other public gardens
Manoel Island
Għadira (Mellieħa Bay)
Heliports
Within 200 metres from Malta International Airport
Comino
Filfla
Buskett
Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs, Gozo
Ta' Qali
Within 50 meters of transmission stations
Simar (St. Paul's Bay)
Salt Marsh at il-Ballut, Marsaxlokk
Girgenti
Wied Għollieqa
Il-Qawra, Gozo
Għammar Hill, Gozo

Table 1. Bird Sanctuaries

Protected beaches	
Malta	Gozo
Armier Bay	Mġarr ix-Xini Bay
Anchor Bay	Ramla l-Ħamra beach
Għajn Tuffieħa	San Blas Bay
Paradise Bay	Xatt l-Aħmar beach
Ġnejna Bay	Xlendi Bay
Golden Bay	

Table 2: Protected beaches

No hunting zones
Qawra Point

Table 3: No hunting zones

LEGALLY HUNTABLE SPECIES IN MALTA IN AUTUMN 2025



Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Land and sea



Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Land and sea



Common Pochard

Aythya ferina

Land and sea



Common Teal

Anas crecca

Land and sea



Eurasian Wigeon

Mareca penelope

Land and sea



Gadwall

Mareca strepera

Land and sea



Garganey

Spatula querquedula

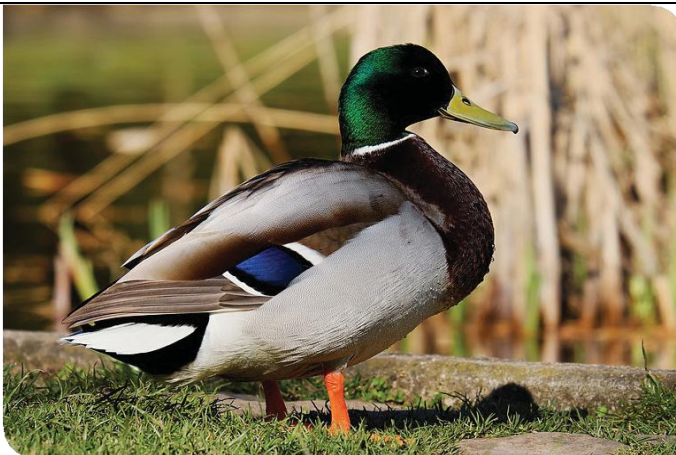
Land and sea



Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Land and sea



Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Land and sea



Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

Land and sea



Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata

Land and sea



Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Land and sea



Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Land



Common Quail

Coturnix coturnix

Land



Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Land



Irish Red Grouse

Lagopus lagopus hibernicus

Land



Scottish Red Grouse

Lagopus lagopus scoticus

Land



Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Land



Rock Partridge

Alectoris graeca

Land



Rock Ptarmigan

Lagopus muta

Land



Eurasian Coot

Fulica atra

Land



Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Land



Western Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Land



Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Land



Eurasian
Golden Plover

*Pluvialis
apricaria*

Land



Grey Plover

*Pluvialis
squatarola*

Land



Jack Snipe

*Lymnocryptes
minimus*

Land



Northern
Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Land



Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Land



Eurasian
Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Land



Rock Dove

Columba livia

Land



European
Turtle-dove

*Streptopelia
turtur*

Land



Common
Woodpigeon

*Columba
palumbus*

Land



Eurasian
Blackbird

Turdus merula

Land



Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Land



Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Land



Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Land



Eurasian
Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Land



Song Thrush

*Turdus
philomelos*

Land



Common
Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Land