

POSSESSION, PROPAGATION, BUYING AND SELLING OF GAME BIRDS

- The following is an overview of legislation from Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA) and other regulations pertaining to the possession, purchase and sale of game birds. Local offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources can provide more specific information.
- The information below summarizes legislation and licensing requirements for possessing, buying and selling game birds imported into Ontario or propagated from stock imported into Ontario.
- It is illegal for game birds to be taken from the wild.
- A person needs a licence to keep game birds in captivity or to buy or sell them. Game birds kept in captivity may not be released into the wild unless authorized by the ministry.
- Game birds under the FWCA include: northern bobwhite, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse, gray (Hungarian) partridge, ring-necked pheasant, rock ptarmigan, willow ptarmigan and wild turkey.

Purchasing Game Birds

If you are buying wild turkey, northern bobwhite, Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, rock ptarmigan, willow ptarmigan or their eggs the following conditions apply:

- At the time of purchase, you must have a valid *Licence to Keep Game Birds in Captivity*. You may obtain this licence from your local Ministry of Natural Resources office. The licence is valid from the date of issue to December 31st of the year issued.
- You must get an invoice from the vendor at the time of sale. The invoice must show the vendor's name, vendor's licence number, the date of sale, your name and address, your licence number, and the number and species of game birds sold to you. You must keep the invoice for two (2) years as a record of purchase.

For Licenced Game Bird Hunting Preserves...

- The holder of a *Licence to Own and Operate a Game Bird Hunting Preserve* may buy wild turkey, northern bobwhite and ring-necked pheasant or their eggs under the authority of that licence.

When Buying Ring-necked Pheasants...

If you are purchasing live ring-necked pheasants or colour variations of the ring-necked pheasant such as melanistic mutants, buff, jumbo white, or any other member of the species *Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus the following conditions apply:

- Most purchasers hold either a *Licence to Keep Game Birds in Captivity* or a *Licence to Own and Operate a Game Bird Hunting Preserve*. If you do not have one of these licences, you may only keep a live ring-necked pheasant for ten (10) days from the date of purchase, and
- You must keep the vendor invoice for two (2) years as a record of purchase. The invoice must contain the vendor's name, the vendor's licence number, the date of sale, your name and address, your licence number (if required) and the number of ring-necked pheasants sold to you.
- Domestic ornamentals such as Lady Amherst, Silvers, Golden and Reeves do not require a licence.

Propagating Game Birds

- The *Licence to Keep Game Birds in Captivity* also allows for the propagation of the game birds under licence.
- The *Licence to Own and Operate a Game Bird Hunting Preserve* does not allow for the propagation of the game birds under licence. Persons with a game preserve licence wishing to propagate also require the Licence to Keep Game Birds in Captivity.

Selling Game Birds

If you are selling wild turkey, northern bobwhite, (gray) Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, rock ptarmigan, willow ptarmigan, ring-necked pheasant (including colour variations of the ring-necked pheasant such as melanistic mutants, buff, jumbo white, or any other member of the species *Phasianus colchicus*) or their eggs the following conditions apply:

- At the time of sale, the seller must hold a valid *Licence to Keep Game Birds in Captivity*.
- You must issue an invoice to the purchaser at the time of sale. The invoice must show your business name, your business' licence number, the date of sale, the purchaser's name and address, the purchaser's licence number (if required) and, finally, the number and species of game birds sold to the buyer. You must keep the invoice for two (2) years as a record of sale.
- Holders of a *Licence to Own and Operate a Game Bird Hunting Preserve* may sell wild turkey, northern bobwhite, and ring-necked pheasant under the authority of that licence.
- Domestic pheasant ornamentals such as Lady Amherst, Silvers, Golden and Reeves do not require a licence.

Note: For information on possessing, buying and selling migratory birds, including geese, ducks, swans and mourning doves you may contact the Ontario Regional Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada at (905) 336-4464.

Contact:

Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940 or your local MNR office.

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