

2024 -- S 2154

LC004264

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- BIRDS

Introduced By: Senators Rogers, de la Cruz, E Morgan, Paolino, DeLuca, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: January 24, 2024

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20-14-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-14 entitled "Birds" is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-14-7. Prohibited methods of taking.**

4 (a) No person shall hunt, pursue, take, or attempt to take, upland or migratory game birds  
5 over any area that has been baited. For the purposes of this section a "baited area" is that on which  
6 salt, corn, wheat, or other grains have been scattered to lure, attract, or entice those birds to, on, or  
7 over, where hunters are attempting to take them and shall not be construed to include areas where  
8 corn, wheat, or other grains are scattered as the result of normal agricultural operations.

9 (b) No person shall hunt, pursue, take, or attempt to take migratory game birds by the use  
10 or aid of live birds as decoys.

11 (c) No person shall hunt, pursue, take, or attempt to take wild birds by the use of an  
12 electronically amplified recording of bird calls or sounds. However, this provision does not apply  
13 to crows.

14 (d) No person shall take, kill, or destroy any wild bird by means of any trap, snare, net,  
15 spring, crossbow, rifle, pistol, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance, nor shall  
16 any person construct, set, maintain, or repair any of these devices for the purpose of taking, killing,  
17 or destroying wild birds, except that a crossbow may be used to harvest wild turkeys in accordance  
18 with regulations established by the department of environmental management.

19 (e) No person shall shoot, or attempt to shoot, migratory game birds by means other than a

- 1 shotgun of size ten (10) gauge or smaller, capable of holding three (3) or fewer shells, or a long
- 2 bow (straight limb, reflex, recurve, [crossbow](#), and compound bow) and arrow.
- 3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would allow the taking of wild turkeys by using a crossbow in compliance with  
2 rules and regulations promulgated by DEM.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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