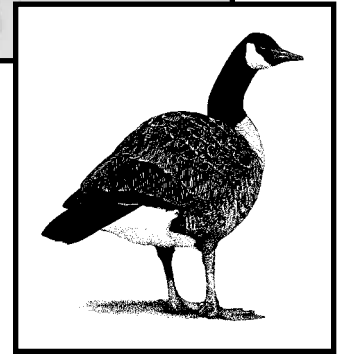


Division of Wildlife

HUNTING



HUNTING IS USUALLY THE BEST OPTION

Due to fewer natural predators and the large amount of available habitat (e.g., golf courses, corporate ponds, private lakes, etc.), resident goose numbers have increased dramatically the last few years, especially in urban areas. This in turn causes an increase in the number of human – goose conflicts.

The most successful way to keep the goose population in check and resolve human-goose conflicts is to allow hunting. This option is not possible in every location due to city ordinances or for safety reasons. However, if hunting is feasible, this option should be the number one harassment technique used.

Hunting decreases the number of geese; moreover, hunting will make other harassment techniques more effective. Geese become much warier when hunted. Geese that have been hunted notice helium balloons, loud sounds, or anything else unnatural in an area, and they will be more likely to seek a different area to feed and rest than geese that have only been harassed.

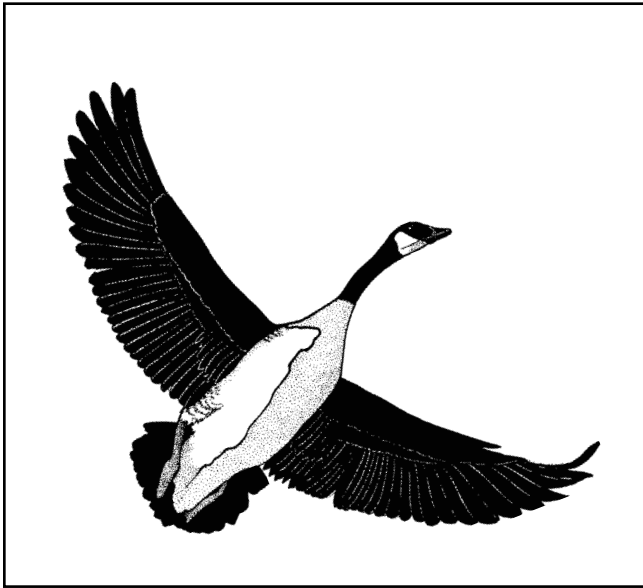


CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON DATES

Canada geese are hunted in the fall and winter throughout Ohio. The Division of Wildlife (DOW) established an early goose season (Sept. 1-15) specifically to harvest resident geese, and many geese involved in conflict situations are taken during this season. Please refer to DOW Publication 298 for more information. Publications can be obtained from DOW district offices which are



Hunting



listed on the bottom of this sheet. The season dates for the regular goose season (Oct. to Jan.) vary from year-to-year depending on the status of the migratory Canada geese which pass through Ohio (DOW Publication 295). A hunting license, state wetlands habitat stamp, federal waterfowl stamp, and a phone-in registration (HIP) are all needed before hunting geese or ducks.

ADVANTAGES OF HUNTING

- Decreases the local goose population
- *Makes other harassment techniques more effective*
- *No cost to landowner*
- *Provides recreation for hunters*
- *Provides food*

ESTABLISHING A GOOSE HUNTING PROGRAM

Goose hunting is well suited to rural agricultural areas; however, hunting within the city limits may raise safety concerns and in most instances will not be feasible. In some situations (e.g., golf courses, large parks away from high-use areas, farms within city limits, and some businesses with a large amount of property), geese can be safely hunted. The local police department should be contacted to receive a variance for discharging a firearm and/or hunting within city limits. The Division of Wildlife does not have the authority to allow discharge of firearms within city limits. Safety concerns related to hunting are noise and pellet fallout (or ricochet).

Goose hunting can be either controlled (limits are placed on who and how many people hunt) or open to the public (with written permission). For most urban/suburban situations the controlled hunt may be the only workable option. Rural hunts can be either open (with permission) or controlled, depending on the location of houses, roads, and adjacent property. In an open hunt, the number of hunters is also controlled but less effort is involved. Contact your county wildlife officer or Division of Wildlife district office for possible waterfowl hunter names.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters

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1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

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Wildlife District Three
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Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
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