

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By Paul M. Kelsey

GOOSE HUNTING

It is no secret that the goose population has been steadily increasing in recent years. During spring lay-over, geese are waiting for the weather to warm up a little more further north on their nesting grounds, the ever-increasing numbers that have attracted wide publicity as they dined on the cornfields of central and western New York, have also aroused the interest of the average sportsman in this great game bird.

Traditionally, goose hunting has been a rather restricted sport, not so much because of the number of geese available, but because of restricted and controlled type of habitat utilized by geese. Early public acquisition of waterfowl habitat was strictly for refuges. This meant that most hunting must occur on private property. If hunting was good, game clubs or individuals bought the land or hunting rights. As a result, the average hunter never had the opportunity to hunt geese.

As goose populations become more firmly established, and as more was learned about controlling the harvest through hunting regulations, it has been possible to open parts of many refuges to controlled goose and duck hunting without injury to waterfowl populations. It has also been possible to open some private lands to the general public through such things as cooperative hunting areas established and maintained under Fish and Wildlife Management Boards.

This has meant that suddenly many new goose hunters have appeared on the scene. Since geese are so concentrated and are so wary that one novice hunter can ruin the day for hunters for half a mile around by his unknowing blunders, here are some tips which may help the novice be more acceptable and more successful.

There isn't any question that the biggest complaint by waterfowl hunters about hunting tactics of their brethren is "sky busting." Once in a while a lucky pellet in the head or wing bone will bring down a goose at 80 yards. Most consistently it just cripples birds that are hit, and sends the other

skyward, never to return to that area. A full-choke shotgun with high base shells, in the hands of the average hunter, is going to lose efficiency very rapidly beyond 40 yards.

Because a goose is so large, it always looks closer than it really is. Know how far it is to your farthest decoy and to other landmarks to help control your time of fire. Wait until you can see the goose's eye and make out details in its plumage before you shoot. It is then within range.

How do you get a goose to come in close enough so that you can see his eye. You have to entice him in without being seen. This means a good spread of decoys — within limits, the more the merrier. Don't get them too close together, for geese bunch up when alerted, so a crowded stool of decoys may turn them away. If there is much wind, geese tend to work into it. If your decoys head in the wrong direction it will also alert the geese. Geese usually land and feed in the middle of the

field, so get your decoys away from the field edge, and leave an opening between your decoys and your blind for the incoming geese to land or they may land beyond your decoys and possibly out of range.

To avoid being seen requires concealment. The typical duck blind stands out like a blaze orange hat to a goose overhead, so the traditional hide has been in the form of a pit. A more mobile rig is burlap, canvas or camouflage net supported on short uprights, under which the hunter lies waiting for the geese to come. As geese come within range, the hunter sits up, throwing off his concealment, and he is ready to shoot. Don't move too soon. Wait until they have lowered their landing gear, for then it is too late for them to flare off and they must touch down before they can regain flight speed.

In goose country in New York you can assume that every field has a blind, so the stalker is about as popular as a skunk at a law party. If he gets close enough to shoot, the geese are probably decoys anyway.



Schedule Of Revival Week Announced

The Andover First Baptist Church has released the following schedule of events to be held the week of October 14 - 21

Saturday, October 13
All Night Prayer Meeting — 7:00 P. M. to 7:00 A. M.

Sunday, October 14
Morning Worship — 11:00 a. m.
Rev. Paul Humphrey, Speaker.

Fellowship Luncheon — 12:30 p. m. Bring a dish to pass and own table service
Evening Service — 7:15 p. m.

Monday, October 15 — 7:15 p. m.
Junior Night — Kids this is your night so bring a friend and enjoy it.

Tuesday, October 16 — 7:15 p. m.
Family Night — Who can have the largest family present?

Wednesday, Oct. 17 — 7:15 p. m.
Sunday School Night — What Sunday School Class and from what Church can we have the largest attendance?

Thursday, Oct. 18 — 7:15 p. m.
Teenager and Youth Night — Young people, how many dare to stand up and be counted?

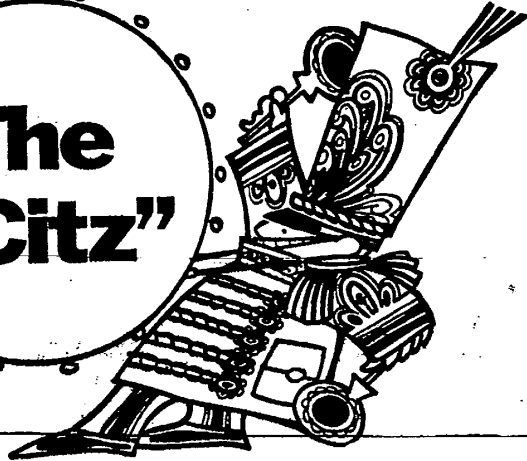
Friday and Saturday
October 19 & 20 — 7:15 p. m.
Pack The Pew Nights. This is our last chance to work for our Lord in this Revival. Let's "Pack 'em In!"
SPECIAL NOTE: — Anyone wanting to come to the services who doesn't have transportation, call 478-5855 and a way will be provided.

Registration Days In Andover

Registration Day in Andover are:
Friday — October 12th — 3 p. m. to 8 p. m.
Saturday — October 13th — 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.
NOTICE — Even if you voted in the Village Election this year — you must register in your District again for General Election in November.

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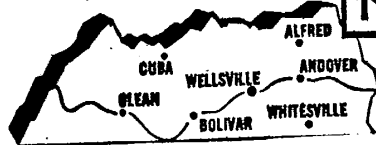
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SPARKY SAYS



Three Important Hints for Keeping Fire Away From Your Home!



Smoking in bed is deadly!



Avoid overloading electric outlets!



Use non-flammable clothing hangers!

Don't give fire a place to start!