

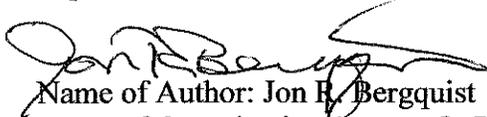
49-01-11

Title: Canada Goose Season

The Problem:

Beginning in 2008, the Department of Natural Resources began, at the request of a few hunters, an experiment to see if delaying the opening of the regular Canada goose season in the Exterior Zone would result in an increase in the harvest of Canada geese in September. In fact, just the opposite has occurred. In 2006 and 2007, the regular Canada goose season began on September 16, the day immediately following the close of the Early September Canada goose season. The Department's Exterior Zone Canada Goose harvest estimate for the period September 16 to September 30 was 13,355 in 2006 and 14,621 in 2007. In 2008, the opening of the Exterior Zone was delayed until September 20 and the harvest for the period between September 20 and September 30 was 12,194, substantially less than what occurred in either 2006 or 2007. The Exterior Zone harvest for 2008 from the opening of the regular season to September 30 was 9,682, also substantially less than what occurred in 2006 or 2007. The harvest information is not available for 2010 yet, but I suspect that with the delayed opening, the harvest will be less during the period in question than what was seen in 2006 and 2007. The Canada goose harvest during September consists primarily of local nesting birds, not migrants from Canada. Thus, the experiment failed to increase the harvest of local nesting Canada geese and instead decreased that harvest.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Polk County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by restoring the opening date of the Exterior Zone Canada goose season to September 16, at least in the Northern waterfowl zone.



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