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CANADA GOOSE HUNTING TO CLOSE IN WISCONSIN, INTERIOR ANNOUNCES

The hunting season for Canada geese in the Wisconsin counties of Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, and Winnebago will close at sundown Friday, October 14, John S. Gottschalk, Director of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, announced today.

The closure became necessary because of an exceptionally high kill of Canada geese during the first 3-day hunting period.

For the remainder of the State, the goose-hunting season will run from October 15 through November 3.

On October 8, 9, and 10, hunters registered an actual take of 9,600 Canada geese in the zone surrounding Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. Hunting success in the 7-county area around this zone was also exceptionally high.

Announcing the closure, Director Gottschalk said: "Although methods of estimating goose kills have not been refined to a precise count, we are convinced that the take in the remainder of the State, outside the seven counties, will result in a Statewide kill at least equal to the quota of 14,000 birds."

"I regret having to close the Wisconsin goose season this early," Gottschalk added. "We had hoped that limiting shooting days to Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays would better distribute the hunting opportunity."

Goose-hunting conditions were excellent in the 7-county area on October 8, 9, 10. This and a hunter reaction of "get 'em while we can" combined to produce the heavy early kill, Gottschalk pointed out.

Earlier efforts by the Bureau to push some birds on south and prevent a buildup of the usual heavy concentration on the Horicon refuge appeared partially successful, however.

"There are nearly twice as many Canada geese in the southern Illinois area now as there would normally be this time of the year," Gottschalk said.

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