

When geese disappear, so do waterfowl hunters



BILL PARKER

Hunters who were anxiously awaiting the special late Canada goose season in southern Michigan have been disappointed at best. Ice on most area rivers and lakes, coupled with a heavy cover of snow in agricultural fields

where the birds traditionally feed during winter months, have sent many resident honkers packing for the remainder of the winter.

"The first couple weeks of December geese were all over the place," said Tim Payne, wildlife biologist at the Michigan Department of Natural

Resources district office in Livonia. "With all the cold weather and snow we've had lately they have been picking up and leaving." There are still some birds around, but no where near the number of birds that were here a few weeks ago.

The season opened on Saturday, Jan. 7, and West Bloomfield hunter Lyman Burgess enjoyed a productive opener. But the birds disappeared soon thereafter.

"We probably saw 600 birds on opening day," said Burgess. "We got out late, around 8:30, and they were already flying. Some of them were high flyers, but some of them were huntable. We got six, so we had a good day."

"I was back out on Monday and we didn't see a bird," added Burgess. "There just aren't as many birds around right now because everything is frozen

over." Typically, at this time of year, there are still some standing crops field or at least crops that have been cut but not plowed under. This year, because of the unseasonably dry fall we experienced, most of the crops in southern Michigan were harvested early. Fields that do have cut crops are buried knee-deep in snow.

Still time to hunt

Despite the adverse conditions, die-hard hunters can still find some huntable geese. But they'll have to work hard to experience success and the act itself will undoubtedly be slow. Decoys are a must at this time of year. Since the fields are full of snow hunters must bear the brunt of the load and carry their "decks" in by foot.

Calling is always a tricky task, especially at this time of year since the geese have been hunted on and off for months. An experienced caller is paramount to success.

"The birds are few and the hunting is hard, but dedicated hunters will find ways to get to them," said Payne.

The season runs through February 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Consult the 1998-1999 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for the exact boundaries of the area open to hunting.

Hunters reports success

There is a new king in the Oxford-based Button Buck Club. Ted Novak was enjoying his infamous reign as "King of the Club" when another club member, Chuck Boike, rained on his

parade. Boike mistakenly shot a button buck late in the 1998 season and took the wind from Novak's sails.

In a letter to the new king, Novak wrote: "Things are always changing. One day you're Mr. Button Buck... signing autographs and getting accolades from hunters all over the state. Then at dusk, you hear the sound of gunfire, and though you are not there, you know it is all over. You go from Mr. Button Buck to just another member of the Button Buck Club. Chuck, your fellow Button Buck Club member, want you to know you are and will always be the Button Buck King. Long live the King!"

Club members, who know how to enjoy the hunt without all the pressure of bagging a trophy

buck, are Robert Collins, Ed Spinazzolo, Johann Klimach, Ken Hohnacki, Novak and Boike.

On a final note, Lake Orion native Arnie Roark made the most of his limited time afield. Hunting private land in northern Oakland County, Roark shot an 8-point buck early in the firearms season, then dropped a majestic 10-point with 10-inch tines and a 17-inch spread on Thanksgiving Day.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

SHOWS

CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show will be held Jan. 27-31 at the Silverdome. The show features a full slate of seminars, previews of the latest RVs, travel trailers, campers and accessories, and representatives from vacation destinations and properties from throughout the Midwest and Canada. Show hours are 3-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 27, 28 and 29; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. Admission is \$5 adult, \$3 for children, and children under five will be admitted free.

BOAT SHOW
The annual Detroit Boat Show will be held Feb. 6-14 at Cobo Center, (800) 932-2628.

DEER AND TURKEY
The annual Michigan Deer and Turkey Spectacular will be held Feb. 12-14 at the Lansing Center, (800) 324-3337.

CAMPER AND RV
The annual Detroit Camper and RV Show will be held Feb. 13-23 at the Novi Expo Center.

BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Silverdome.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPO
The 10th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo will be held March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The show will feature a special appearance by national wildlife

angling champion Ted Tokanaki on Friday, March 5. Other speakers of national renown scheduled to speak at the show include walleye pros Mike McClelland and Keith Kovajec, bowtuning expert Chuck Adams, In-Fisherman Magazine editors Dave Cananda and Matt Straw, and Michigan's own Tom Huggler.

OUTDOORAMA
Outdoorama '99 Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 26-March 7 at the Novi Expo Center, (800) 777-6720.

ACTIVITIES

BELLE ISLE HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a hike around Belle Isle during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at Belle Isle. Call (248) 435-9522 for more information.

MICHIGAN ICE
A slide presentation highlighting the ice climbing opportunities in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Grand Island, begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, at REI in Northville. Call (248) 547-2100 for more information.

SKI/HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a hike/cross country ski tour of Indian Springs Metropark during this program, which begins at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. Call (248) 557-7768 for more information.

SEASON/DATES

BOBCAT
Bobcat season runs through Feb. 16 in Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Isco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties and in Arenac County west of I-76 and north of M-61. The season runs through March 1 in the Upper Peninsula and in Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties in the northern Lower Peninsula.

CROW
The late crow season runs Feb. 1-March 31 in the Lower Peninsula.

COYOTE
Coyote season runs through April 15 statewide.

FOX
Gray and red fox season runs through March 1 statewide.

GOOSE
A special late Canada goose season runs through Feb. 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific boundaries.

RABBIT/HARE
Rabbit/hare season runs through March 31 statewide.

STURGEON
Sturgeon spearing season is Feb. 1-28.

TURKEY
Feb. 1 is the deadline to apply for a spring wild turkey hunting permit.

METROPARKS METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7759; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

PLANT TRY-IT
Brownie scouts can complete all the requirements for the Plant Try-It badge during this program, which will be held throughout the day on Saturday, Jan. 23, at Indian Springs.

ANIMAL TRY-IT
Brownie scouts can complete all the requirements for the Animal Try-It badge during this program, which will be held throughout the day on Saturday, Jan. 23, at Indian Springs.

DEEP ASLEEP
Learn all about hibernation during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Kensington.

WINTER STARS
Learn some winter constellations then design a star t-shirt during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at Kensington.

ANIMAL TRACK T-SHIRTS
Learn about animal tracks during an outdoor hike, then stamp animal tracks on a t-shirt during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at Indian Springs.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS for more information.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

TRACKS AND TEES
Search for animal tracks and other signs of wildlife, then print your own animal track t-shirt during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Independence Oaks.

BEGINNER WOODCARVING
Learn the basics of woodcarving while carving a small songbird figure during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Independence Oaks.

STARLIGHT SKI TOUR
Take an evening cross country ski tour during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain, call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 686-2438. For programs at Island Lake, call (810) 229-7067.

DETROIT ROCKERS FAMILY PACK

4 Great Seats In The Lower Bowl!
4 Little Caesars Pizza Slices or Hot Dogs
4 Cokes

Only \$39!

AVAILABLE EVERY ROCKERS HOME GAME.


AVAILABLE AT THE JOE LOUIS ARENA BOX OFFICE ONLY



VS. WICHITA WINGS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 7:00PM

DETROIT'S OTHER GREAT TEAM SHARING THE JOE.
For some darn good fun, hang with the Rockers this season at Joe Louis Arena.
For game and ticket information call: 313-398-7070

ROCKERS IS SOCCER



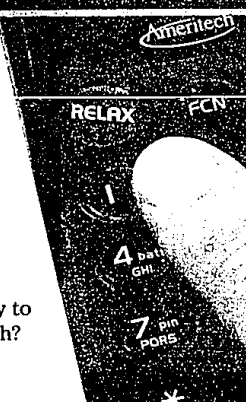
GETTING CUT OFF WHILE TALKING TO A CUSTOMER SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU. AND UH, IT'S NOT.

"EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH."

Do you need reliable cellular service for your business?

Did you know we offer plans that meet the needs of your business?

Did you know the person behind the counter is ready to talk to you about Ameritech?



FIND OUT HOW TO INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS' PRODUCTIVITY WITH A CLEARPACK PLUS PLAN.

©1998 Ameritech Cellular. All rights reserved. Ameritech Cellular is a registered trademark of Ameritech. Ameritech, Relax, PCN and Clearpack Plus Plan are trademarks of Ameritech. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Service available in select markets only. See your local Ameritech Cellular representative for more information. Service not available in all areas. Service subject to change without notice. Service available in select markets only. See your local Ameritech Cellular representative for more information.

Ameritech
In a world of technology, we make the difference.

Available at over 400 locations, including the following SEARS stores:

Ann Arbor Brewwood Shopping Center 900 Brewwood Circle 734-994-0381	Dearborn Faulkner Town Center 18900 Michigan Ave., Ste. 3 313-461-1520	Flint Crescent Valley Shopping Center 3101 S. Linden Road 810-733-2019	Lincoln Park Lincoln Park Shopping Center 2100 Southfield Road 313-351-0203	Livonia Livonia Mall 29500 W. Seminole Road 248-471-2937	Hart Twin Oaks Mall 27600 New Road 734-349-5310	Revere Macomb Mall Shopping Center 32123 Greater Avenue 810-293-2008	Stearling Heights Lafayette Mall 14100 Lakeside Circle 810-537-0450	Troy Oakland Mall Shopping Center 300 W. 14 Mile Road 248-597-0900	Waterford Serenity Place 433 N. Telegraph Road 248-706-0630	Westland Westland Center 35000 W. Warren 734-762-5008
--	---	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	--

CALL 1-800-767-0412
for additional locations near you.
www.ameritech.com/relax