



Photo by Daniel J. Felsher

**Many states**, including Alabama, released Canada geese in various areas. These geese don't migrate. In many places, they became so numerous that they turned into pests. To trim resident goose populations, Alabama holds an early season from Sept. 1-30. Goose season reopens from Oct. 10-24, Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 5 through Jan. 31, 2021.

# Other birds

## *Wing-shooters can seek more than ducks and doves*

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

Many people hunt doves because the season opens earlier than most other game. As the days progress into fall, sportsmen turn to other pursuits, like deer or waterfowl. However, bird hunters can find abundant other hunting opportunities this month and throughout the fall and winter.

By the late 19th and early 20th century, overhunting and habitat lost greatly reduced the population of giant Canada geese. Wildlife managers believed this subspecies of Canada geese became extinct in the 1950s. Then, researchers discovered a small flock in Minnesota.

From that small flock, wildlife managers began breeding these large waterfowl to protect them and eventually released many in the wild throughout the country. Raised in pens, these geese did not migrate. In the past few decades, populations of giant Canada geese grew substantially. In many places, like parks and golf courses, they became so numerous that they turned into resident pests.

"We brought the giant subspecies of Canada geese here decades ago to bolster the population," detailed Seth Maddox, the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Migratory Game Bird Coordinator. "They're much bigger than the ones that migrate from Canada. They were never really a migratory species, but they do move around the state and may cross into adjacent states. Their populations are growing and expanding in Alabama."

To trim resident goose populations, Alabama holds an early season from Sept. 1-30. Goose season reopens from Oct. 10-24, Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 5 through Jan. 31, 2021. During each of these seasons, sportsmen can shoot Canada geese as well as snow, blue and specklebelly or white-fronted geese if they can find them. For resident Canadas, locate where they want to stay and knock on some doors.

"We offer a larger bag limit in September so people can take advantage of the large population of local Canada

See **OTHERS**, 15

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