

Goose Hunting Tactics

By Barry Cymbaluk

I am fortunate enough to live in such a great province; Alberta is one of the greatest provinces when it comes to meeting the needs of waterfowl. With thousands of

lakes, and thousands of hectors of grain fields, Alberta is the one of the best places for staging birds.

There's no animal I like hunting

more then the wily Canada Goose. Once the magic date of September 1st hits, you won't catch me at home on the weekend. Because of the fact that I can hunt geese on the weekends only, it puts me in a tough position. Scouting, which can be the most important factor when it comes to a good hunt, becomes difficult. Friday evening is the only time I can scout and finding an adequate amount of geese is sometimes mind numbing. However, over the years I have found many ways in which to give myself an edge over the geese when the times get tough and few birds are in the area.



Every bird counts. When a flock of geese is coming towards your spread, you need to be on the ball, not sipping coffee or scratching

y o u r
b u t t .

You'd be amazed how silently a flock of geese will suddenly appear.

K e e p
y o u r
e y e s
a n d
e a r s
o n

full alert. When few birds are using your area, you don't want to lose a chance at a group of birds over a silly mistake.

Flagging geese works. Not enough goose hunters in Alberta are utilizing the simple technique of flagging geese. I personally use a commercially made flag; however making them is very easy and cheap. When geese are seen at a distance, I like to stand and flag hard so that I get the attention of the distant geese. Do whatever it takes. Some guys (and we won't mention names) like to run around there decoy spread waving the flag like a

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madman. Geese at a distance have very poor eyesight and too them it looks like geese circling and landing into your spread for a meal. Accordingly, if the geese have seen your flagging, they will want to join in. Once you have their attention, get in your blind, and keep flagging. Imitate geese stretching their wings or hopscotching from one feeding spot to another. Once geese are within a hundred yards or so I like to stop flagging. However, on some days you may find geese want to be flagged in all the way, so adjust your tactics accordingly.

Good goose calling makes a difference. For many years I have practiced my calling and the rewards have paid off. Not only do I hope to be the next Canadian champ but I can make geese do whatever I want them too. When I have a flock

of geese working my spread and I want them to turn and come into the hole, I can do it. When a flock of geese is about to land outside my spread and I want them to pick up and come towards my spread, I can do it. Purchase a respectable call, and practice. The rewards will



amaze you. Here is an example of a sequence I would use on a flock of geese: [click here](#)

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Call loud. I own the loudest goose call on the market. Between flagging and calling loud, I have pulled geese from many miles away. When there are few geese in the area, or if trees or hills block my view of the horizon, I simply do some real loud honks and there have been many times that I've called



geese that I never even saw or knew existed. At a distance your calling doesn't have to be perfect, young geese aren't perfect either and by the time the sound reaches the geese it usually has deformed anyway. Some hunters even use snow goose calls on Canada geese at a distance. A snow goose call is generally louder and higher pitched. Be loud

they don't kill many geese and half of time they are only pass shooting. I only use G&H and Outlaw decoys. G&H are shell type decoys with an excellent paint job which does not shine, not to mention the plastic is very durable. Outlaw's are silhouette type decoys which help create the illusion of movement.

Also because of the fact that they are flat you can transport many more decoys. Because our birds in Alberta are relatively dumb, I believe you're better off going with quality than quantity. Also, bigger is better. Geese have terrible depth perception so using big decoys will not spook them. I prefer super magnums and magnums.

They will get the attention of the geese sooner and they stick out better on stubble fields.

Keep a low profile. Willow blinds are awesome, well sometimes. They are comfy, cheap to make, and you can shoot standing up. There is only one problem though, they stick



birds better and they are very comfy. The only drawback is price. They aren't cheap. But when your hunting in a willow blind and the geese won't commit, you'll find the money.

If you're like me and prefer geese landing on your lap, take the following tips and try them out; I am sure your results will improve.

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