

Canada Goose Management in New York State



Levels of Management

- Federal:
 - Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Responsible agency – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- State:
 - Protected migratory game bird

Populations

- Three populations found in New York:
 - Migratory –
 - Atlantic Population (upstate)
 - North Atlantic Population (Long Island)
 - Resident “non-migratory” –
 - Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (statewide)



Canada Goose Population Management Unit



Atlantic Population

Atlantic Flyway Resident Population of Canada Geese



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Population Objectives

Atlantic Population

- Atlantic Flyway Management: 225,000 breeding pairs

Atlantic Flyway Resident Population

- Atlantic Flyway: 700,000 total birds (spring), by 2020

- 1.4 geese per square mile

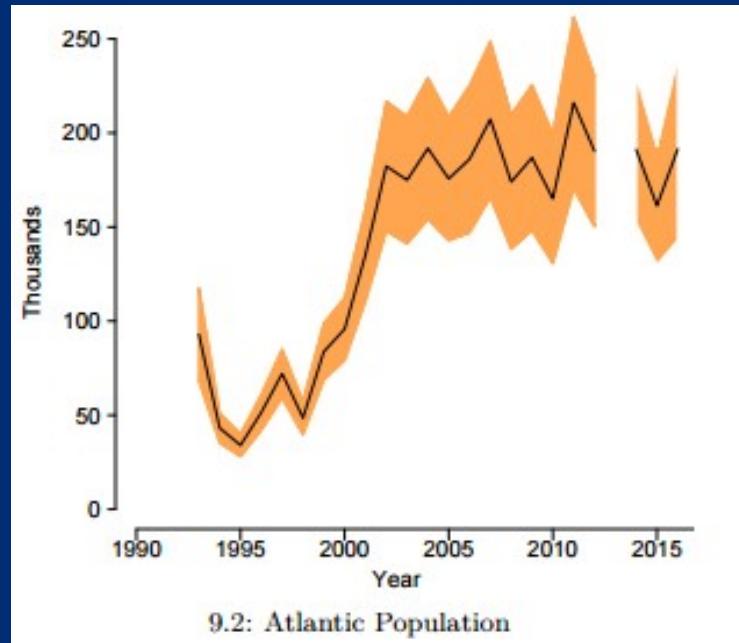
- New York: 85,000 total birds (spring)

- 1.8 geese per square mile



Where are we now?

- **Atlantic Population:**
 - A true success story in wildlife management
 - Atlantic Population breeding pairs bottomed out at just 29,000 birds in 1995
 - 2016 estimate: 190,000 pairs



Where are we now?

- **Atlantic Flyway Resident Population:**
 - Too much of a good thing?
 - Stable population since 2003, no significant trend
 - 2016 estimate: 950,000 total birds

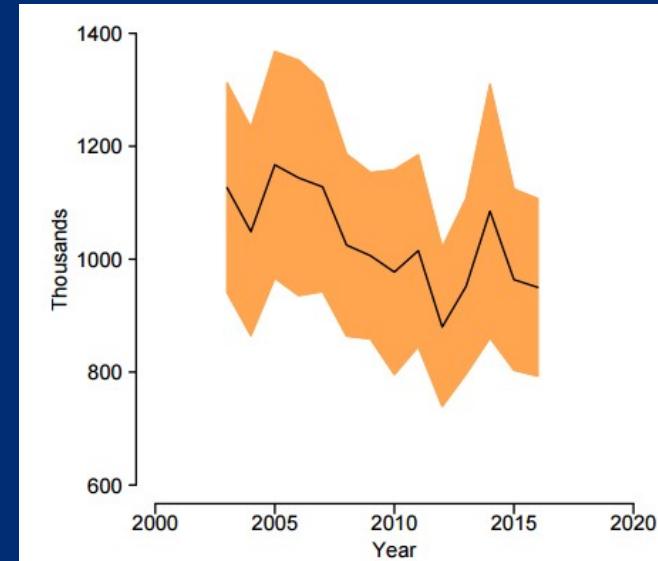


Figure 10. Estimated numbers (and 95% confidence intervals) of Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (breeding adults) Canada geese.

Resident Goose Population Status in New York



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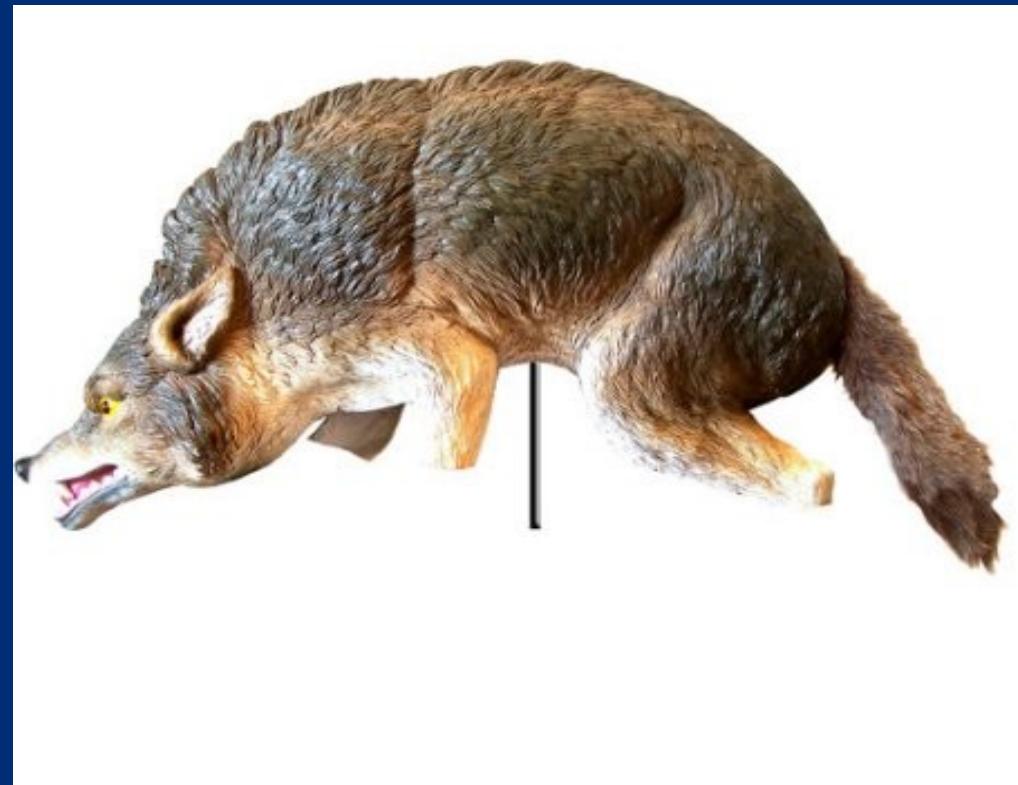
Management options - the toolbox

- Hazing – no permit required
- Egg addling/nest destruction
 - registration required (USFWS)
- Regulated hunting
- Federal Depredation Order
 - requires “Record of Authorization” from DEC
- USFWS Depredation Permit



Other non-lethal management tools

- Prohibit feeding
- Habitat modification
- Fencing
- Grid wire
- Visual deterrents
- Chemical deterrents



Hunting

- Primary management tool
- Special seasons in some zones:
 - 25-day September season
 - liberal bag limits (8-15/day)
 - special hunting methods allowed
- Regular season
 - Between 30-60 days
 - Restrictive bag limits (2-3/day)
 - Between late October-January



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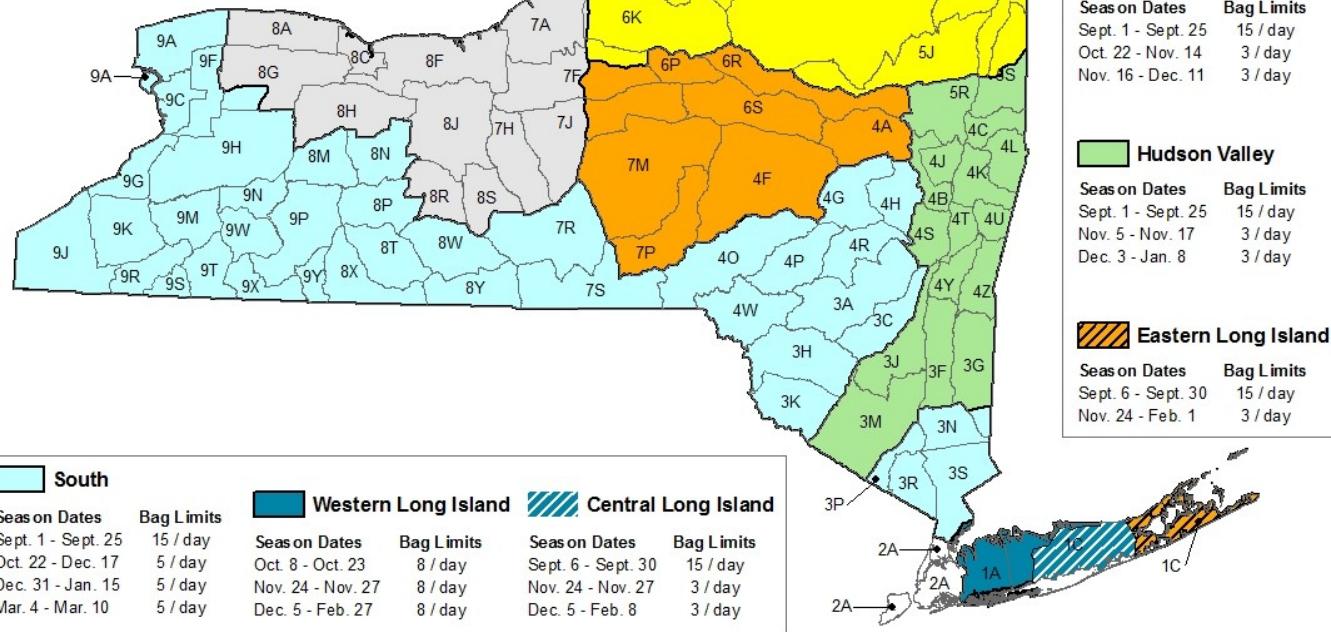
2016-2017 CANADA GOOSE HUNTING AREAS AND SEASONS

West Central

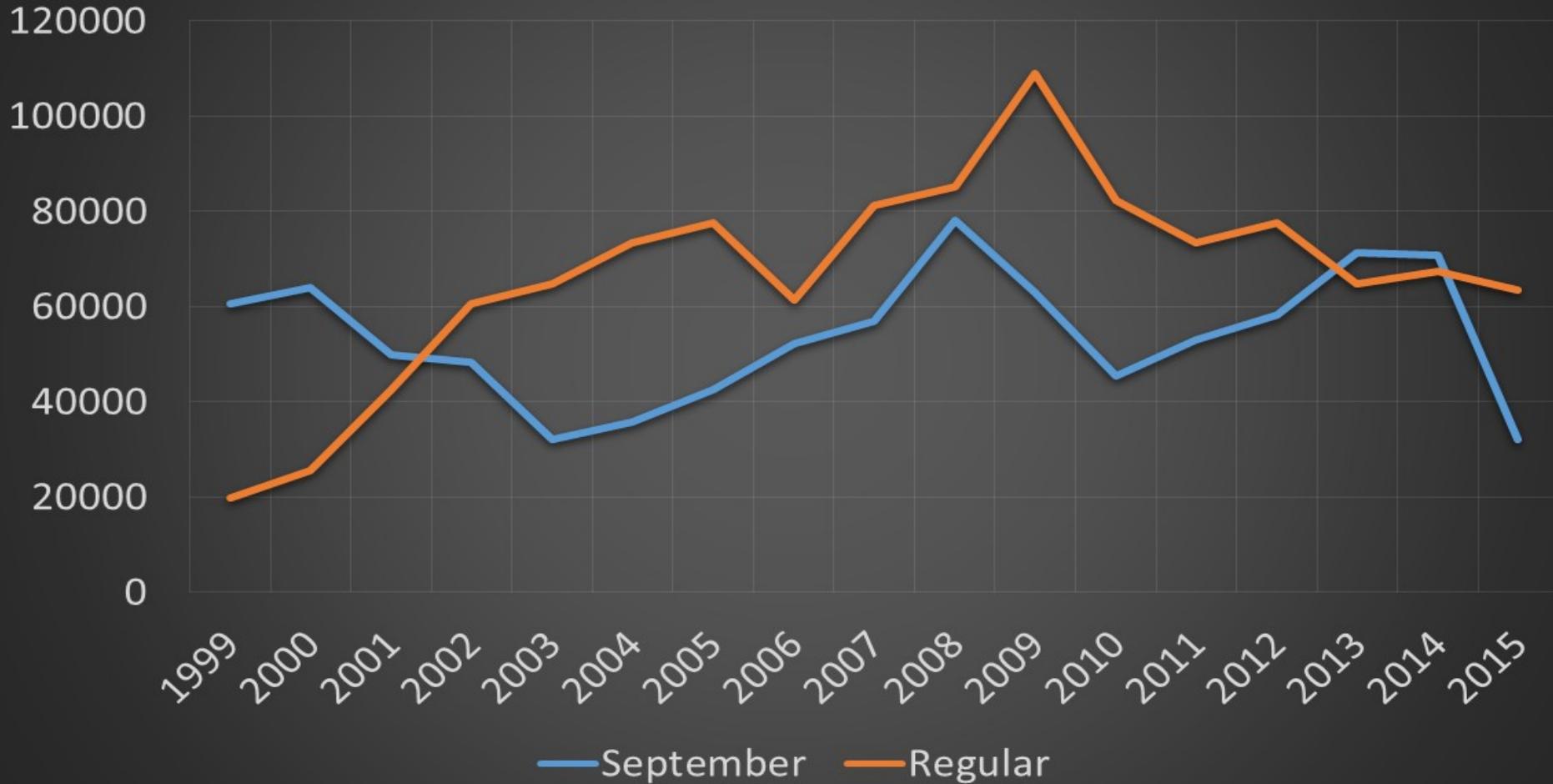
| Season Dates | Bag Limits |
|--------------------|------------|
| Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 | 15 / day |
| Oct. 22 - Nov. 24 | 3 / day |
| Dec. 31 - Jan. 15 | 3 / day |

East Central

| Season Dates | Bag Limits |
|--------------------|------------|
| Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 | 15 / day |
| Oct. 22 - Nov. 18 | 3 / day |
| Dec. 3 - Dec. 24 | 3 / day |



New York Canada Goose Harvest



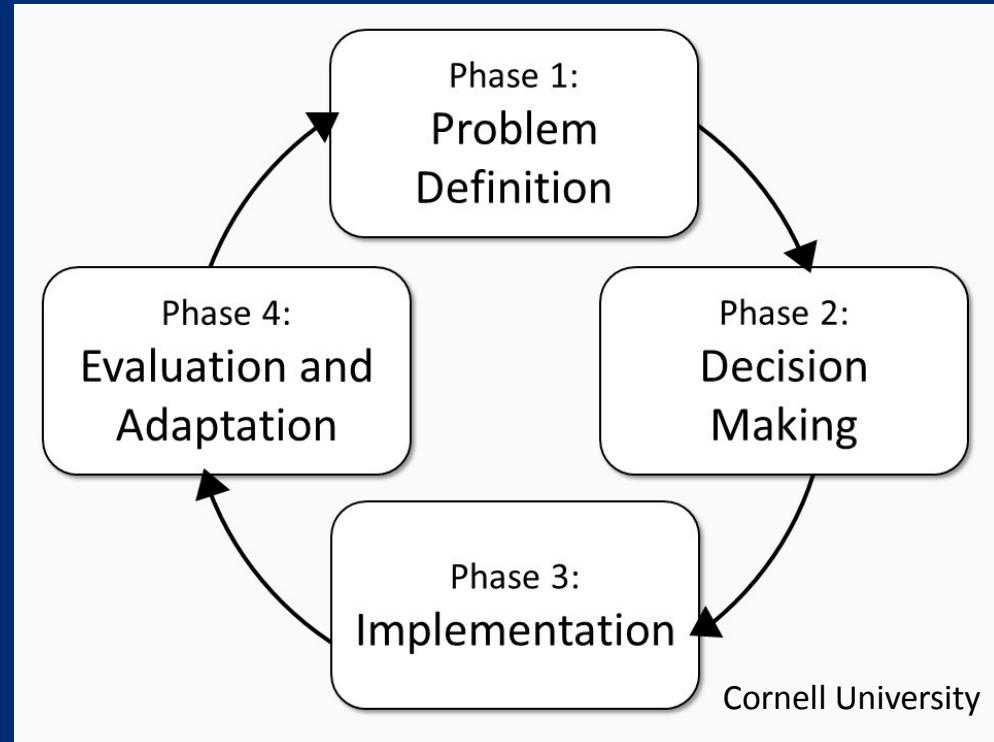
Management begins with the landowner!

- The landowner is the one experiencing the damage
- Management tools are available to address the localized, short-term, impacts
- But what about long-term?



Community-based nuisance wildlife management

- Necessary for long-term success



Questions?



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Thank You

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