

Ontario, Canada
By: Jeff Murphy

This October, the Call Outdoors made our first trip to Canada for hunting waterfowl. Dave, our new friend Rich Yoder and myself left Friday, October 3rd from Camp Sankanac around midnight. We made a quick stop at a Wawa for coffee and some snacks before we headed north on the PA Turnpike extension. We met up with Phil in Clarke Summit, PA at Sheets around 2:30 a.m. October 4th to fill up on gas.

After we got back on the road, we made a quick stop at Curtis' house in NY to pick up his video camera, which we misplaced and never used. Dave switched trucks and rode with Phil, while Rich rode with me. It was a good chance to get to know Rich, plus his goose calling practice kept me awake. We made one more stop in Watertown, NY for gas and restrooms before we hit the border.

We reached the border of NY and Canada around 6:00 a.m., no traffic. We were there about 30 to 40 minutes while they checked us out. A tip for the border, have your vehicle registration ready and if they ask if you lived in another state, that also refers to being born in Texas or Florida.

After we crossed through, it didn't take very long before we started spotting birds in fields, in the air and on water. We had very high hopes, what we didn't realize was that the weather was going to make it really tough on us. First they had a lot of rain throughout the summer, they only had 12-14 days without any type of rain, so birds were finding water to roost on everywhere and farmers weren't able to get in fields to bring in their crops. Secondly, they were having an Indian summer with temps in the 60's to 70's, so birds weren't really migrating south yet.

A few hours later, we got in our hotel and decided to go scout the area. We also took this time to buy our required licenses at the Government building in Peterborough, Ontario. We spent the next couple of days putting a lot of miles on and a lot of gas in the Suburban, scouting and learning the land. Sunday we met up with our families at Camp Mill Stream, which is a BCM camp like Camp Sankanac.

Sunday afternoon, we found a farm that had a lot of ducks dropping into it. We stopped and talked with the farmer and got permission to hunt every other day that week if we wanted. Up until this point we had found a couple of farms with several hundred geese but couldn't secure permission to hunt them. The rest of the week, we spent hunting some and scouting a lot, but that's what you have to do if you're not with an outfitter.

Tuesday evening, the camp director Larry, had us meet up with a local brother by the name of Al Cavers. Al is a real down to earth great guy. He took us around to several properties that he had permission on and got us permission also. We tried to hunt with Al and his son one evening, but it didn't work out. He was also instrumental in getting us permission to hunt a field that we found about 200 birds on that we couldn't get permission on. Unfortunately, Rich & Phil had to leave us early due to Riches' grandfather passing on Monday evening.

Over all, the week was tough but also fairly fruitful, check out Dave and Phil's stories. We ended up shooting 24 geese and 27 ducks. Not huge numbers for a week of hunting in Canada, but it turned out better than we thought it would be after the first weekend. We do plan on going back next year and possibly staying a little longer and we may even do a little turkey hunting. If you get the chance, I would recommend going to Canada to hunt waterfowl.