

essential habitat for excellent pheasant production," Vonk said.

The counts in the main pheasant range are similar to or higher than the counts in 2002 when hunters bagged 1.2 million pheasants. Pheasant hunters harvested 1.8 million pheasants in 2010.

"All things considered, pheasant numbers in much of the traditional pheasant range of the state are still good despite the declines in the counts," Vonk said. "Much of South Dakota will continue to provide a premier opportunity to hunt pheasants."

The complete 2011 Pheasant Brood Survey Report, including local survey results for different areas of the state, can be found online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/small-game/pheasant-outlook.aspx>

### **Hunters Can Donate Geese from August Management Take**

Resident Canada goose populations in South Dakota have continued to increase in recent years, exceeding population objectives and causing high levels of crop damage.

In an effort to reduce the goose population, South Dakota will implement an August Management Take Season for the second year, allowing hunters to harvest eight geese per day from August 13-28.

"We are looking to waterfowl hunters to assist in managing goose numbers, and the August Management Take is one tool

to use in reaching population objectives," said Tom Kirschenmann, chief of Terrestrial Services for the Game, Fish and Parks Department.

To complement the special season, Kirschenmann said hunters can donate their harvested Canada geese to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program for distribution to needy families across the state.

"It's as simple as hunters dropping off their harvested geese at one of the many participating processors found on the Sportsman Against Hunger website and the processors take it from there," added Ron Fowler, Sportsmen Against Hunger coordinator. "Participating processors are key partners in making this program a success. Because both hunters and facilities have varying schedules, it's important for hunters to contact their desired processing facility to determine business hours and deadlines for dropping off geese for processing."

While donating geese is a simple process, hunters must follow specific guidelines to meet federal migratory bird regulations.

"Federal regulations stipulate that the head or one fully feathered wing remain attached to each bird at all times while transported to the hunter's personal abode or a processing facility," said Andy Alban, GFP Law Program administrator. "However, if harvested geese cannot be donated the day they are harvested and taken home for cleaning, hunters are al-

lowed to donate cleaned geese at later dates."

To learn more about donating Canada geese during the August Management Take Season and the location of participating meat processors, hunters can visit <http://www.feedtheneedsd.com> or call 800-456-2758.

### **Duck and Goose Seasons Finalized**

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has finalized 2011 Waterfowl Seasons.

The 2011 Duck Season will be split into four zones:

- \* The High Plains Zone, which encompasses all of western South Dakota and portions of most Missouri River counties, season will run from Oct. 8, 2011 through Jan. 12, 2012.

- \* The Low Plains North and Middle Zones, which consist of most of the eastern half of South Dakota, season will run from Sept. 24 through Dec. 6.

- \* The Low Plains South Zone, which consists of parts of Gregory, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union Counties, season will run from Oct. 8 through Dec 20.

The daily duck limit will be six, which may be comprised of no more than:

- \* five mallards ( which may include no more than 2 hens)
- \* three wood ducks
- \* two redheads