

- \* two scaup
- \* two pintails
- \* one canvasback

The possession limit will be twice the daily bag limit.

The South Dakota Goose Hunting Season will be split into three Units:

\* Unit 1, which consists of most of South Dakota, season will run from Oct. 1 through Dec. 18

\* Unit 2, which consists of Perkins County, portions of Fall River and Custer, and portions of a majority of the counties bordering the Missouri River, season will run from Oct. 29 through Feb. 10

\* Unit 3, which consists of Bennett County, season will run from Jan. 7 - 15

A daily limit of three Canada geese, 20 light geese and 1 white-fronted goose will be allowed with an unlimited possession limit for light geese and twice the daily limit for Canada and white-fronted geese.

For more information on the 2011 South Dakota Waterfowl Seasons, visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/>

### **Resident Senior Combination License Proposed**

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission is considering a proposal that would allow South Dakota residents who are 65 years and older to purchase a Senior Combination Fishing and Hunting License.

The special license would cost \$34. Currently, seniors can get a discount fishing license, but

no Senior Small-Game License option is available.

The commission is also considering a proposal to reduce the current \$25 price of the Nonresident Junior Small Game License to \$10.

Comments on both proposals can be sent to: Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or via email to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us).

Both measures will be decided by the GFP Commission at its Oct. 6 meeting in Rapid City at The Outdoor Campus-West. Public comments will be allowed, beginning at 2 p.m. MDT.

## **WISCONSIN Waterfowl hunters reminded to be sure of their target**

Don't shoot a swan or a whooping crane

With the opening of the regular Canada goose Exterior Zone hunting season on Friday, Sept. 16 and the northern duck season on Sept. 24, waterfowl hunters are reminded that swans, whooping cranes and other non-game birds are also migrating and to carefully identify all birds before shooting.

Successful efforts to restore trumpeter swans in Wisconsin removed them from the state endangered species list. Whooping cranes are found mostly in central Wisconsin as the result of an ongoing reintroduction project. However, wildlife ecologists remind hunters

that the swans and whooping cranes are protected under state and federal law and caution waterfowl hunters to be sure of their target.

"Accidental or intentional shooting continues to be a concern for our expanding population of trumpeter swans and whooping cranes," says Sumner Matteson, an avian ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources. "Hunters need to know the difference between swans and snow geese to prevent accidents."

### **Trumpeter swans**

Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl species in North America. Adults are all white and stand up to 5 feet tall, weighing between 20 and 35 pounds with a 7-foot wingspan. Younger swans, called cygnets, have grayish plumage and are smaller, but are still significantly larger than Canada geese, with which they are sometimes confused.

Trumpeter swans were once fairly common throughout the northern United States and Canada. Market hunting and the millinery trade rapidly depleted nesting populations during the 19th century. By 1900, it was widely believed that the species had become extinct. But a small non-migratory population survived in the remote mountain valleys of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and later a population of several thousand trumpeters were found to have survived in remote parts of Alaska and Canada.