Blending in
It’s difficult to fool all those eyes and ears. Sounding like a single duck is much easier than creating the ruckus of a thousand geese. Electronic callers are legal for snow geese during the conservation order, and many hunters prefer these recorded sounds over a traditional call.

Hiding from all those eyes means concealment. Layout blinds are a popular option and allow hunters to stay dry and well hidden until it’s time to shoot. Try to find a low area in the field you are hunting and set up your blinds there. An affordable and effective option is to simply cover yourself with a piece of burlap.

Pack a Punch
Geese are big, heavily feathered birds, and they can take more punishment than a duck. The maximum legal size for hunting snow geese is T shot, but 2 shot to BBB are all effective. Number 2 shot is the largest shot size allowed on many Wildlife Management Areas.

When aiming, try to focus on the head instead of the body. One or two pellets in the head will bring a bird down quickly; one or two in the chest may only cripple it. Also, aiming at the head allows more leeway if you don’t lead the bird enough.
Arkansas’s Overlooked Opportunity

Snow geese, blue geese and Ross’s geese are a common sight in the fields lining the delta in east Arkansas. Crops such as corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, oats, barley and milo make attractive feeding areas for the geese, destroying fields and offering an added opportunity to hunt waterfowl well into spring.

Arkansas wintered very few snow geese in the early days of European settlement, but populations have exploded so much they are beginning to destroy their nesting habitat in the arctic tundra. They also cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in crop loss each year to farmers across the nation. Because of these reasons, Arkansas has joined many other states in establishing a special conservation order, where hunters may chase snow geese outside of normal waterfowl season dates and use special equipment to harvest more birds.

Get Access

A good snow goose hunt begins months before the birds arrive. Find out who owns the land where you typically see large concentrations of snow geese. Many farmers lease out their property for duck hunting, but may allow you to hunt once duck season has ended. Try to gain permission to hunt many pieces of property in the same general area. A large flock of snow geese can pick and area clean of vegetation in a matter of days. A field that held a huge flock of geese for five straight days may be empty on the sixth.

Early Riser

Those large flocks also make snow geese much more difficult to decoy. A couple dozen decoys aren’t much of an attraction to a goose in a flock of 10,000. Veteran snow goose hunters often wake early to set out hundreds of decoys in their field before settling in for the hunt. In the past, decoys made of trash bags and newspapers may have worked, but geese have gotten wary to these tactics. Wind socks, silhouettes and even a few full-bodied decoys offer realism that will get those geese down to shooting level.

Don’t leave the dekes out overnight, either. The longer the birds have to detect the ruse, the less likely they’ll fall for it when shooting time rolls around. It may be a pain, but pick up the decoys at the end of every hunt and move them around often to give the geese something new each day.