

oiled and returned to the nest. If they float without tilting (stages 4 and 5), the eggs have been incubated for at least two weeks, and can be removed along with the nest with little risk that the hen will re-nest.

3) Eggs in flotation stage 6 may be on the verge of hatching. One or more eggs in the nest may be pipped (meaning the gosling is pecking through the eggshell).

If pipping has occurred, it is illegal to destroy any eggs in that nest. You must allow that entire nest to hatch.

Check your property several times per week for new nests, and re-visit all nests to check for any unoiled eggs (new, unoiled eggs will not have a pencil mark on them). Oiled nests at least two weeks old can be removed and harassment techniques can be used to deter the adult geese from the area.

Always keep records!

Keep good records of nest locations, how many nests/eggs you have treated, what date you first visited a nest, what stage the nest was in, when the eggs need to be removed. This information will simplify the process in future years as geese often nest in the same area year after year. Also, some of this information will be required for your summary report with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

How do I file my report?

You are required to report this information to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR> by October 31. Failure to file a report will limit your opportunity to conduct egg and nest destruction in the future.

For more information about managing Canada geese, go to our Goose Solutions page at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3002.htm>

For Nest and Egg Destruction Permit Information, contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Resident Canada Goose Registration Office
(703) 358-2425



Managing Nuisance Canada Geese



Egg and Nest Destruction Egg Oiling Method

Egg and Nest Destruction



Egg oiling and nest removal are effective for reducing local populations of Canada geese

Canada geese begin nesting in mid-March. Hens will build a rudimentary nest before laying one egg every 1.5 days until the clutch is complete. Only then will they begin incubating the eggs. If a nest is destroyed before a hen has satisfied her nesting instinct, she will simply build another nest and lay new eggs. However, geese usually won't re-nest if they have been incubating eggs for more than two weeks. Rather than destroying a nest, oiling the eggs will allow a hen to satisfy her nesting instinct while preventing the eggs from hatching.

All Canada goose nest and egg destruction activities require a permit through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Register for free online at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR>.

How does the oil work?

Applying a thin coating of food-grade corn oil to eggs prevents them from hatching. The oil layer blocks pores in the eggshell, preventing the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the outside air and the embryo, effectively asphyxiating it. Hens will continue to incubate the unviable eggs, eventually giving up once their nesting instinct is satisfied.

Egg oiling is 95 - 100% effective at preventing successful reproduction

How do I apply the oil?

Food-grade corn oil may be applied by any means that creates a thin, but complete coating of oil to each egg without excessive contamination of the nest and surrounding area. Backpack or handheld sprayers can be used to spray oil on the eggs, or each egg can be dipped by hand into a small bucket of oil, then lightly wiped to remove any excess.



When do I apply the oil?

Observe the nesting activity of geese in the area. To be most effective, oiling should be done at least five days after incubation begins, but at least five days before hatching (see diagram to the right). Treat all eggs in a nest at the same time.

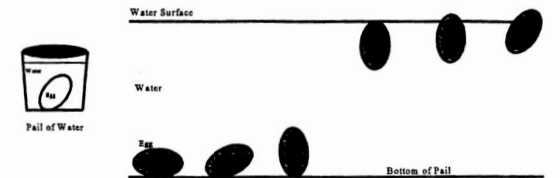
Bring some backup!

Canada geese can be very aggressive when defending their nest, and are capable of inflicting strong blows with their wings and body. A boat oar, trash can lid, broom, or umbrella can be used as a shield. It is illegal to harm the birds, so merely hold the shield between yourself and the bird to prevent it from striking you.

It is best to work in teams, but if you can't, a dog on a leash is one of the best defenses when approaching a nest - DO NOT allow the dog to attack the geese.

How can I tell the age of an egg?

For this method to be effective, it is important to know the number of days that the eggs have been incubated (i.e., the age of the embryo). If eggs feel cool to the touch, incubation has not begun and the clutch may not be completely laid. Such nests should be revisited in 7-10 days when the eggs feel warm to the touch. At that time they may be aged using the Flotation Method:



Flotation Stage	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
Age of embryo in days	0-3	4-8	9-13	14-18	19-23	24-27
Waiting period (days) before removing eggs	20	15	10	0	0	0

1) Fill a bucket with water to a depth of about 7 inches, as the eggs must be able to float free of the bottom. Mark each egg with a pencil, then place 1-2 eggs in the water and observe whether they sink or float.

2) Compare the eggs to the chart above. If the eggs sink (stages 1-3), they should be