



- 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 and pursue other management methods.**

- 4.) Check your property several times weekly for new nests and revisit all nests to check for any unoled eggs (new, unoled eggs will not have a pencil mark on them). Oiled eggs that have been in nests for at least two weeks can be removed, and harassment techniques can be used to deter the adult geese from the area.

### Always keep records.

It is best to keep good records of nest locations, how many nests/eggs you have treated, egg flotation stages, and the timeline for egg removal. 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 & Wildlife Service.



### File your report.

You are required to report this information to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at **[epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR](https://www.fws.gov/eRCGR)** by Oct. 31. Failure to file a report will limit your opportunity to conduct egg and nest destruction in the future.

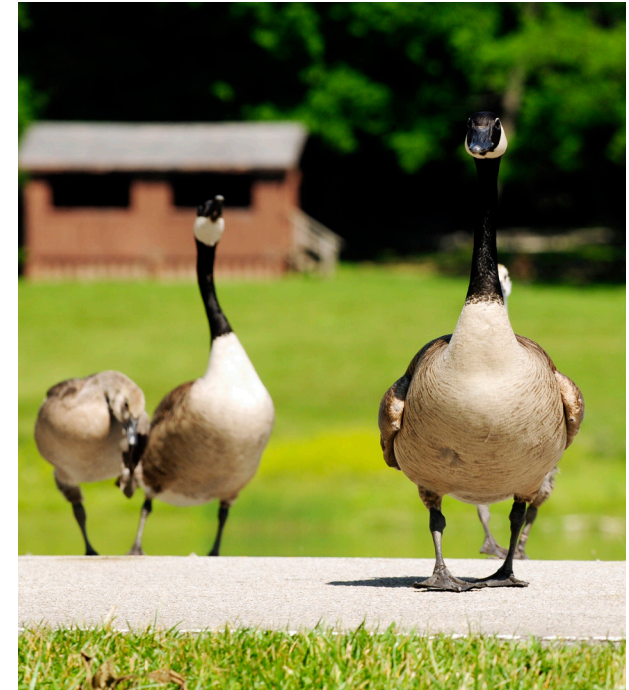


For more information about managing Canada geese, visit: **[on.IN.gov/geese](https://on.IN.gov/geese)**.



For Canada goose Nest and Egg registration, visit: **[fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx](https://fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx)**.

# Managing Canada Geese



## Egg and Nest Destruction Egg Oiling Method

## Egg and Nest Destruction

Canada geese begin scouting nesting spots in February and typically begin nesting in mid-March. Hens will build a nest then lay one egg every 1.5 days until a clutch averaging five eggs is complete. When complete, incubation begins. If a nest is destroyed before a hen has satisfied her nesting instinct, she will build a new nest and lay new eggs. Geese usually won't re-nest if they have been incubating eggs for more than two weeks. As opposed to destroying a nest, oiling the eggs will allow a hen to satisfy her nesting instinct but prevent the eggs from hatching.

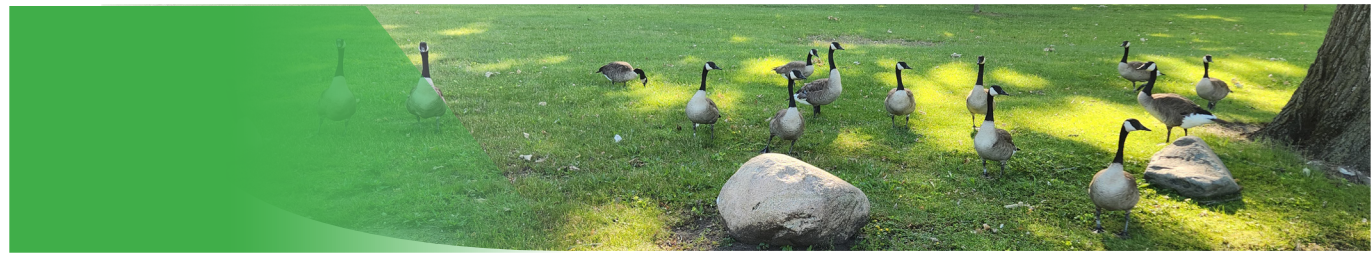
Nests may be very basic and simply be hollow areas in the ground lined with feathers. Empty nests may be destroyed at any time without a permit. Once eggs are laid, a permit is needed to legally destroy them.

You must register between Jan. 1 and June 30 at [fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx](https://fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx) prior to oiling eggs!

### How does the oil work?

Applying a thin coating of 100% 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. Hens will continue to incubate the unviable eggs. If oiling is timed correctly, the goose will satisfy her nesting instinct, abandon the unhatched eggs, and not re-lay eggs.

Egg oiling is 95 - 100% effective at preventing hatching when done correctly.



### How do I apply the oil?

Apply 100% corn oil in a thin, complete coating to each egg. Avoid dripping excess oil. 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. It may be helpful to mark eggs with a pencil to keep track of those that have been oiled.



### When do I apply the oil?

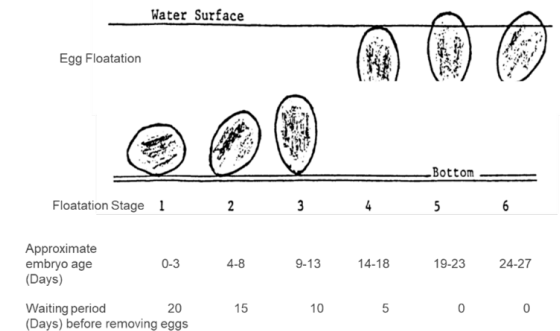
Observe the nesting activity of geese in the area. To be most effective, oiling should be done at least five days after incubation begins, but at least five days before hatching (see diagram). Treat all eggs in a nest at the same time.

### Bring some backup!

Understandably, both male and female Canada geese can be aggressive when defending their nests. Most injuries occur when people trip and fall while running away. A trashcan lid, broom, or umbrella can be used as a shield. Defending yourself is acceptable, but it is illegal to harm the birds, so merely hold the shield between yourself

and the bird. Work in teams so someone can distract geese while another person oils the eggs.

#### Determining Floatation Stages of Canada Goose Eggs



### How can I tell the age of an egg?

For oiling to be effective, it's important to know the number of days the eggs have been incubated. If eggs feel cool to the touch, incubation has not started, and the clutch may not be completely laid. Such nests should be revisited in seven to 10 days when the eggs feel warm to the touch. At that time, they may be aged using the flotation method:

- 1.) Fill a bucket with about 7 inches of water. Make sure the eggs can float free of the bottom. Place 1-2 eggs in the water and observe whether they sink or float. Keep track of which eggs have been checked.
- 2.) Compare the eggs to the chart above. If the eggs sink (stages 1-3), they should be 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 they can be removed along with the nest.