Got Nuisance Waterfowl?

Techniques for Problem Solving
CANADA GEESE

• Federally regulated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918 with Japan, Russia, Canada, and Mexico
• Once thought to be extinct
• True success story in wildlife management
• Now a common sight
## Residents verses Migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First breeding age</th>
<th>4-5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td><strong>Clutch size</strong></td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td><strong>Nest success</strong></td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td><strong>Adult survival</strong></td>
<td>70-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
<td><strong>Migration</strong></td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td><strong>Hunting exposure</strong></td>
<td>120 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-100 days</td>
<td><strong>Population trends</strong></td>
<td>Fluctuates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NESTING BIOLOGY

- Mate for life
- Only female incubates
- 28 day incubation
- Often nest in same area year after year
- Survival rate >90%
GEESE ARE GRAZERS

Prefer:

- Fertilized grass
- Grass < 6 inches tall
- Kentucky bluegrass
- Open fields with few or no trees and shrubs
- Near water
Canada Geese can live up to 20 or more years!

*Must remove adult birds to be successful in decreasing population.*
BAG OF TRICKS

- No simple solution
- Methods work better when combined
- Be persistent
STOP
FEEDING THE DUCKS AND GEESE
IT'S PROHIBITED STRICTLY ENFORCED
DON’T ALLOW DOMESTICS

- Domestics act as a magnet by attracting Canada geese to your site
- People feed the domestics and then the Canada geese move in to feed also.
HABITAT MODIFICATION

• INITIAL EXPENSE

• LONG TERM CONTROL

• REDUCE ATTRACTIVENESS TO GEESE
VEGETATIVE BARRIERS
ROCK BARRIERS
FENCE BARRIERS
Fiberglass or Plastic Posts

Ground Rods

Energizer

20'

(+)

(-)

10" ↑
8" ↓

6'

12' 12'
ELIMINATE ISLANDS & PENINSULAS
TURN FOUNTAINS OFF IN WINTER
HARASSMENT

- SHORT TERM
- NON-LETHAL
- NO PERMIT REQUIRED
- USE REPEATEDLY
- EFFECTIVE WHEN USED WITH OTHER TOOLS
NOISE MAKING DEVICES

- Air horns
- Whistles
- Bird bangers
- Cracker shells
- Propane cannons
- Fireworks
- Distress calls
VISUAL DEVICES

- Predator decoys
- Dogs
- Strobe lights or lasers
- Water sprinklers
- Leaf blowers
- Radio controlled boats
- Mylar tape, flags, balloons
CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

- Methyl anthranilate makes the grass unpalatable to geese (ReJeXiT, Bird Shield)
- Anthraquinone visible deterrent & unpalatable to geese (Flight Control)
NEST DESTRUCTION

✓ Very effective in reducing population
✓ Some methods are 95-100% effective
✓ Supported by wildlife agencies
✓ Supported by animal welfare agencies
✓ Satisfies the goose’s nesting instinct
https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx
or www.wildlife.in.gov
NEST LOCATION

Nests often within 150’ of water
• Islands and peninsulas
• Muskrat houses
• Under shrubs
• Base of mature trees
• Landscaping in urban areas
• Anywhere that offers some concealment
PREVENT RE-NESTING

- Do not remove eggs until they float!
- If the eggs sink, oil them and put them back in the nest.
- 14 days is the key

Flotation Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flotation Stage</th>
<th>①</th>
<th>②</th>
<th>③</th>
<th>④</th>
<th>⑤</th>
<th>⑥</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of embryo in days</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>9-13</td>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>19-23</td>
<td>24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting period (days) before removing eggs</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.wildlife.IN.gov
TRAPPING

- Must have a permit from the District Biologist
- Done when the geese molt in June or July
- May have to contract a nuisance wildlife control operator

Relocation  Euthanasia
RELOCATED GEESE

- Goslings imprint on the area where they learn to fly
- Relocated geese have been found in approximately 11 other states
- Option for those with a public relations concern
EUTHANIZED GEESE

• Takes adult breeders out of the population
• Geese can’t return to original site
• Problem is not moved elsewhere
• Is not a cure all, but only one tool of many to help control nuisance geese
• New geese may move into the now available habitat
HUNTING

- Long Term Population Control
- Early Season
  September 1-15
- Regular Season
  Some Days in October
  November-January
- Late Season
  February 1-15 in 30 counties
- Use When Permitted
PRELIMINARY HARVEST #

Total Canada geese harvested
Early Season geese
Regular Season
Late Season
HEALTH & SAFETY PERMIT

• Signed statement from local health official
• Biologist can issue a permit to shoot outside of hunting season
• If you request this permit, you should already be hunting on the premises during the hunting season.
AG DEPREDATION PERMIT
CONCLUSION

• Must use a multi-faceted approach
• Don’t let the problem get started in an area
• Must remove adult breeders to decrease a population
• Requires long–term management, not just short-term.
• Let your voice be heard in the political arena.

IF YOU BUILD THE HABITAT THE WATERFOWL WILL COME!
Any Questions?

For more Information contact:

DNR Customer Service
1-317-232-4200

or

Your Local District Biologist

http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2716.htm