Rhode Island Department
of Environmental Management
Division of Fish & Wildlife

Resolutions for Resident Canada Geese

A Management and Response Guide

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Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature.

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This document was created by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish & Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture. It is intended as a tool to educate the public on Canada goose biology and behavior and to help mitigate the impacts of resident Canada geese on private property.

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Photo: James P. Mann
Cover Photo: Dean Birch

Situation

- Resident Canada geese have become year-round residents throughout the state and their numbers have increased greatly.
- Rhode Islanders may encounter problems with large numbers of geese on their lawns, roads, and in waterways.
- Canada geese are a valuable natural resource and provide recreational opportunities for hunters, bird watchers and the public.
- The adaptability and reproductive capacity of resident Canada geese require consistent and collaborative management efforts to control the population.
- Successful resident Canada goose management requires ongoing research to ensure populations are healthy and in-check.

Goals

- To provide the public with background knowledge of Canada goose biology and life history which informs management and conservation decisions
- To provide the public with tools to avoid and/or mitigate resident goose issues within their community
- To provide the public with an understanding of Rhode Island's current Canada goose management plan

Introduction

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) protects, conserves and manages Rhode Island's wildlife and their habitats. In this mission, the Division is responsible for managing the two distinct populations of Canada geese that inhabit our state; migrant Canada Geese, and resident Canada geese.

In recent years, resident populations, which remain in Rhode Island year-round, have been substantially increasing, while migrant populations, which only visit Rhode Island during the colder months, have been struggling to survive. In large numbers, resident geese can cause problems such as overgrazing of lawns, accumulations of droppings and feathers, nutrient loading to ponds, public health concerns at beaches and drinking water supplies, aggressive behavior by nesting birds, and safety hazards near roads and airports. Ensuring our Canada goose populations remain healthy and that Rhode Islanders are benefiting from this natural resource, is a delicate balance.

Photo: USFWS, Axel Brunst

When European settlers first arrived in Rhode Island, Canada geese were abundant as a migratory species. However, unregulated hunting and overharvesting led to dramatic declines in goose populations until the early 1900's, when new conservation efforts were put to action, like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Pittman-Robertson Act. These new regulations, along with the introduction of additional birds across New England, helped boost the Canada goose population. In 1958, the first nesting Canada goose was observed Rhode Island. During the next several years additional nests were located. By the mid 1990s, Rhode Island's goose population had grown to more than 4,000 birds, with nesting occurring state-wide.

In suburban areas throughout Rhode Island, shoreline home development with widespread lawns on lakes and ponds, lack of natural predators, limited hunting, and supplemental feeding have created an explosion in resident goose numbers. While most people find a few geese acceptable, problems develop as local flocks grow and the droppings become excessive. This guide describes the most effective methods available to discourage geese from settling on property and to reduce problems with geese that have already become established on a site.

All Canada geese, including resident flocks, are protected by Federal and State laws and regulations. In Rhode Island, management responsibility for Canada geese is shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Rhode Island DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is illegal to hunt, kill, sell, purchase, or possess migratory birds or their parts (feathers, nests, eggs, etc...) except as permitted by regulations adopted by USFWS and DEM. Special permits are required for some of the control methods discussed in this guide.

Wildlife management and response protocols will continue to be established and reviewed to guide residents, community groups, and municipalities in their efforts to address concerns associated with resident geese in Rhode Island. Please contact the RIDEM, Division of Fish & Wildlife for more information about this guide by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov.

FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE
RIDEM DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE)
BY CALLING THEIR 24-HOUR HOTLINE: 401-222-3070

Canada Goose
Life History

Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) are a valuable natural resource that provide recreation and enjoyment to bird watchers, hunters, and the public. The sight of the distinctive V-formation of a flock of Canada geese always brings a special thrill and their calls herald the changing seasons. By creating sprawling lawns and agricultural fields adjacent to water, humans have created the ideal habitat for these adaptable avians to thrive.

Photo: Yellowstone NPS

Description

Canada geese are large, heavy-bodied birds with long, thin necks and smalls heads. They are brown in color with a black neck and head, which sports a distinctive white "chin-strap". Their bellies are buff white, and their bill and legs are black. There are no outwardly identifiable characteristics between males and females. Adults weigh around 13 pounds and they have an average wingspan of 58 inches. Though their behaviors differ, there is no way to visually distinguish resident geese from migratory geese.

Photo: USFWS

Resident vs. Migrant

"Resident" geese, as their name implies, spend most of their lives in one area, although some travel hundreds of miles to wintering areas. Resident geese are unique from the migratory populations that breed in northern and eastern Canada. Banding studies have shown that resident geese are not simply migrant geese that stopped flying north to breed. Canada geese have a strong tendency to return to where they were born and use the same nesting and feeding sites year after year. This makes it hard to eliminate geese once they become settled in a local area.

Photo: Chris Sorge

Reproduction

Resident geese are long-lived in suburban areas. One bird banded by the DFW in 1973 was reported as harvested during the 1998 RI goose season. Geese begin breeding in their third

spring and they typically nest every year for the remainder of their lives. Geese also pair bond and mate for life, but if one member of a pair dies, the other will mate again. The annual life cycle for Canada geese begins in late winter when adult pairs return to nesting areas in late February or March, as ice cover disappears. Egg laying and incubation generally extend through April, with the peak of hatching in late April or early May, depending on the location in the state. Geese lay an average of 6 eggs per nest, and more than half will hatch and become free-flying birds in the fall. A female goose could potentially produce more than 50 young over her lifetime. Geese will aggressively defend their nests, and may attack if approached. Non-breeding geese often remain nearby in feeding flocks during the nesting season. After hatching, goose families may move considerable distances from nesting areas to brood-rearing areas, appearing at ponds bordered by lawns.

Photo: Peter O'Connor

Goslings

Young geese are born precocial, covered in a soft, yellow down with eyes open. After only a 1 to 2 days, they will leave the nest.

Molting

After nesting, geese undergo an annual molt. This is a 4-5 week flightless period when they shed and re-grow their outer wing feathers. Molting occurs between mid-June and mid-July, after which birds resume flight. During the molt, geese congregate at ponds or lakes that provide a safe place to rest adjacent to a food source. Nuisance problems often occur at this time of year because the geese congregate on lawns next to water. Some geese without young travel hundreds of miles to favored molting areas. These "molt migrations" account for the disappearance or arrival of some local goose flocks in early June. After the molt and through the fall, geese gradually increase the distance of their feeding flights and are more likely to be found away from water.

Photo: nature80020

Nesting Behavior

Females build nests on elevated pieces of ground near water. Nests are made from feathers, grasses and other plant material. The male aggressively defends the nest, while the female incubates the eggs until hatching.

Diet

Canada geese change their diet based on the season. In the winter they feed on berries, seeds, and can be found foraging in corn fields. In the warmer months, they consume more grasses, grazing on lawns or using their long necks to reach submerged aquatic vegetation. Large resident flocks, sometimes joined by migrant geese in October, can be found feeding on golf courses, athletic fields, turf farms and commercial properties with large lawns. A daily pattern of movement from lakes, ponds or coastal wetlands to inland feeding sites is established until ice or snow eliminates feeding areas and forces birds to the open waters of Narragansett Bay or south shore coastal ponds.

Photo: Fyn Kynd

What's wrong with feeding waterfowl?

This seemingly harmless activity results in overcrowding, spread of disease, malnutrition, and habitat degradation. In addition, high concentrations of birds can result in degraded water quality. It is illegal to feed wildlife and doing so can be harmful to both humans and wildlife.

Dependency and Habituation

Geese that become accustomed to human feeding can become aggressive, and while these animals are beautiful from a distance, they are large birds and are capable of causing serious injury. Feeding wildlife can cause animals to become dependent on human food sources which is both unhealthy and unnatural.

Malnourishment

While feeding birds bread is an ingrained tradition in many families, it is incredibly unhealthy for the animals. Bread contains no nutrients and is not a natural part of a bird's diet. Birds fill up on "junk" food and become malnourished. This lack of essential nutrients can lead to malnourishment, improper growth and development and ultimately, death.

Disease

In areas where human supplied feeding occurs, geese gather in abnormally large numbers, leading to an increased risk of disease spread. High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Avian Cholera and Avian Botulism can spread rapidly as a result of over-crowding. Eliminating human feeding can help prevent these diseases from devastating our waterfowl populations.

Avian Influenza

Symptoms: Wild birds that are infected with rarely display symptoms and low pathogenic and nonpathogenic influenza have low mortality rates. However, high pathogenic avian influenza often leads to death in birds. AI is rare in humans, but results in flu-like symptoms.

Transmission: The principal means of transmission of AI among bird species is through secretions and droppings and the virus can remain present in water.

Waterfowl hunters should take the following simple precautions:

- Do not handle or butcher game animals that are obviously sick or found dead
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game
- Wear rubber gloves and washable clothing while cleaning game
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after handling game
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook game meat thoroughly to reach an internal temperature of 165° F

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HPAI VISIT:

https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals/one-health/avian-influenza

"Angel wing" or "slipped wing" (pictured above) is a wing deformity in geese, swans and ducks caused by malnourishment. This condition can occur as a result of being fed bread and other human foods which lack the proper nutrients required for growth and development. There is no cure for angel wing and because it obstructs flight, the bird's means of escaping predators is eliminated.

Managing Canada Geese
Rules and Regulations

Canada Goose Hunting in Rhode Island

Rhode Island divides its Canada goose hunting season into three "windows":

Early Season

The first, termed the "early season", targets resident birds before migrants have moved into Rhode Island. The goal of this season is to provide hunters with ample opportunity to harvest a natural resource while also trying to reduce this over abundant population.

Regular Season

During the "Regular" Canada goose hunting season, migrant birds are moving through the state, and the number of birds hunters can harvest is greatly reduced. This aims to protect migrant populations, which have experienced declines in recent years.

Late Season

The final "late" season aims to once again target resident birds by only allowing the harvest of geese in the northern portions of the state, where migrant birds are unlikely to be found during this time of year.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Geese are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. "The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid Federal permit."

Rhode Island Hunting Laws

To hunt waterfowl, a person must have a Rhode Island State hunting license, a federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, a Rhode Island State Duck Stamp, and be registered in Rhode Island's Harvest Information Program. Hunters should check local laws regarding discharge of firearms.

For more information on hunting in Rhode Island visit:

DEM.RI.GOV/
HUNTFISH

Photo: Yellowstone NPS

Goose Deterrents & Hazing Techniques

Because of the extremely adaptable nature of Canada geese, the lack of natural predators, the perfectly landscaped habitat and the ingrained human tradition of feeding waterfowl, populations of resident Canada geese have exploded. Most people enjoy, or at least tolerate, a few geese visiting their property, but when numbers become excessive, problems arise. Overgrazing of lawns, accumulations of droppings, nutrient loading to ponds, and aggressive behavior by nesting birds, are just a few of the issues that can occur when goose numbers are too high. Discouraging geese from areas can be effective but must be done consistently and requires multiple techniques to achieve positive results.

What is "hazing"?

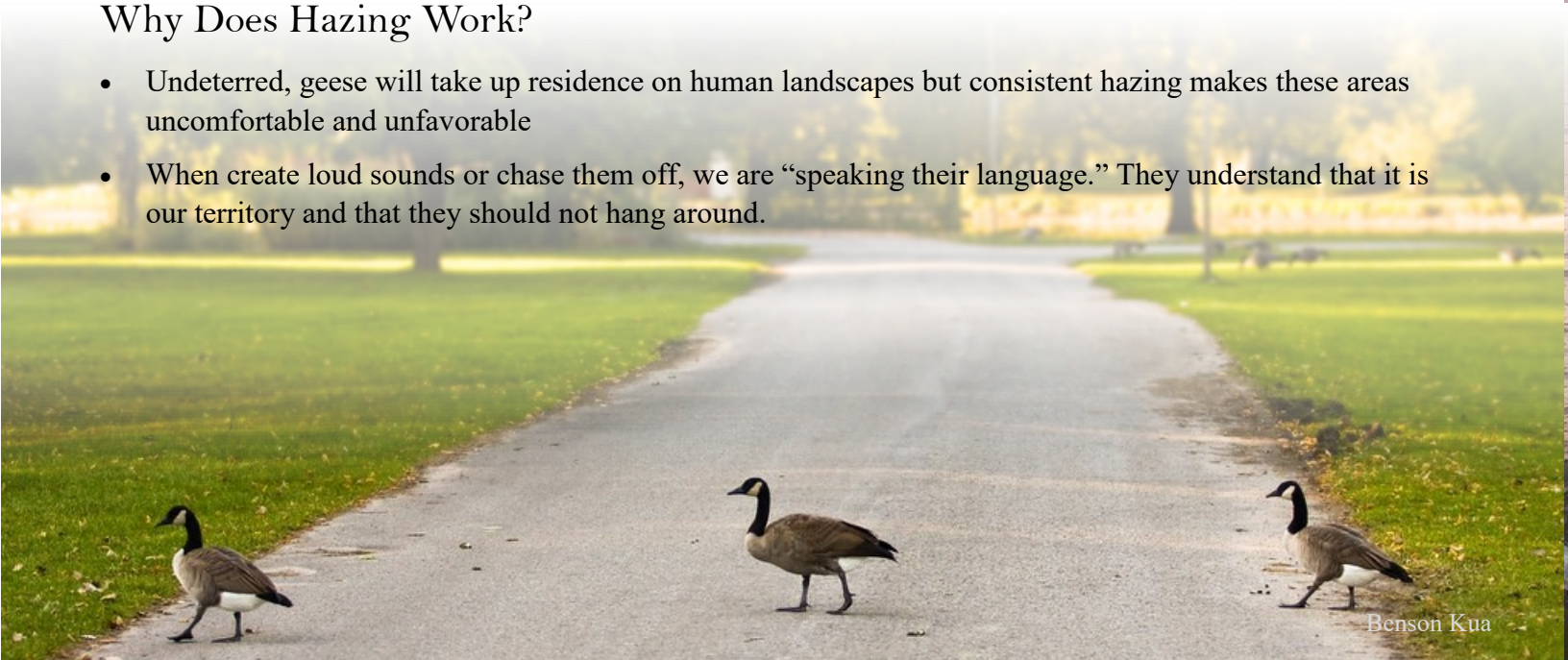
GOOSE HAZING: An action or series of actions carried out in an attempt to deter resident geese, or change behaviors of habituated geese and/or to re-instill a healthy fear of people in the local goose population.

The Goals of Hazing Are To:

- Discourage geese from loitering in public areas or yards
- Reverse the habituation of geese to people, teaching them to once again fear and avoid humans
- Discourage geese from approaching people
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when they encounter issues with geese
- Increase awareness about goose behavior among residents and involve the community in goose management efforts

Why Does Hazing Work?

- Undeterred, geese will take up residence on human landscapes but consistent hazing makes these areas uncomfortable and unfavorable
- When create loud sounds or chase them off, we are "speaking their language." They understand that it is our territory and that they should not hang around.



Benson Kua

FEDERAL PERMITS

Federal permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are required to capture, handle, or kill Canada geese. Permits to kill geese are not issued unless USDA has determined that other measures were not practical or effective.

If a permit is obtained, several conditions must be adhered to, including but not limited to the following:

- You may not use blinds, pits, or other means of concealment, decoys, duck calls, or other devices to lure or entice birds within gun range.
- To minimize lethal take of birds, you must continually apply nonlethal methods of harassment alternately with lethal control.
- Unless otherwise specified, birds, nests, or eggs taken must be (1) turned over to the USDA, (2) donated to a public educational or scientific institution, or (3) completely destroyed by burial or incineration.

*Landowners must register online with the USFWS to disturb goose nests or eggs, but a federal permit is not required.

*A landowner may chase or disperse geese from his or her property at any time without a permit as long as the birds are not physically harmed.

APPLY FOR DEPREDATION PERMIT
https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf

REGISTER FOR EGG/NEST REMOVAL
https://epermits.fws.gov/ercgr/gesi.aspx

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

There are many ways to discourage Canada geese from settling in your area. No single technique is universally effective and socially acceptable. Persistent application of a combination of methods is usually necessary and yields the best results.

Goose problems in suburban areas are especially difficult because birds are not afraid of people and may become accustomed to scaring techniques. Also, some techniques are not compatible with desired uses of suburban properties.

Don't rule out any technique that might be feasible; dogs under strict supervision can safely be used in parks and schools, and controlled hunting has been successfully used at some golf courses.

Initiate control measures as soon as you notice geese in your area, and be persistent. Once geese settle in a particular location, they will be more tolerant of disturbances and be difficult to disperse. No method works well with just a few attempts, and a comprehensive, long-term strategy is usually needed.

Control measures work in various ways. Some reduce the biological capacity of an area to support geese by reducing availability of food or habitat. Other methods disperse geese to other sites where, hopefully, they are of less concern. Some techniques reduce the actual number of geese to a level that people can tolerate ("social carrying capacity").

Control techniques described in this packet include only those that have the best chance for success based on past experience. Other methods may work, and new techniques will undoubtedly be developed in the future. We welcome reports on the effectiveness of any goose control measures that you employ.

Goose Deterrents & Hazing Techniques:
Exclusion & Habitat Modification

Exclusion

LOW WIRES: Golf course ponds, reflecting pools, wastewater ponds, and newly seeded lawns with limited public access, should consider installing low wires by constructing a grid-system of suspended wires over the water to deny birds access.

- Single strands of #14 wire or 80-100 pound test monofilament line can be arranged with 10 to 15 feet between wires. Each wire must be secured so that it remains 12-18" above the water surface, and perimeter fencing may be needed to keep geese from walking under the grid. To reduce the risk of birds flying into the wires, attach brightly colored flagging.

FENCING: Fencing, dense shrubbery, or other physical barriers installed close to the water's edge are effective ways to control goose movements on lawns or smaller landscapes during the molt. Fences must completely enclose the site to be effective.

- Goose control fences should be at least 30" tall (48-60" to block aggressive birds) and solidly constructed. Welded wire garden fencing (2" x 4" mesh) is durable and will last years. Some success has been reported with low voltage electric fencing.

Photo: Hoyasmeg

Habitat Modification

ELIMINATE PREFERRED HABITAT: Let grass or other vegetation grow to its full height around water bodies. Avoid creating islands and peninsulas which act as preferred nesting areas. Minimize use of lawn fertilizers to reduce the nutritional value of grass to the birds.

REDUCE PALATABILITY: Instead of grass, plant or encourage native shrubs or less palatable ground cover, such as ivy, pachysandra, or junipers. Apply ReJeXiT®, an EPA approved non-toxic goose repellent available to treat lawns. Cost is about $125 per acre per application. *Not permitted for use in ponds or wetlands in R.I.

Photo: Airwolfhound

NOT RECOMMENDED:

- *Use of swans*: Real ones create other problems; fake ones don't work
- *Bird distress calls*: Effective for some bird species, but not proven for geese
- *Scarecrows or dead goose decoys*: Ineffective for resident geese
- *Sterilization*: Very labor-intensive for surgery, no chemical contraceptives available in the foreseeable future
- *Fountains or aerators in ponds*: Not effective, may even attract geese
- *Introduction of predators*: Already present where habitat is suitable, but none take only geese
- *Use of poisons*: Illegal

Goose Deterrents & Hazing Techniques:
Scare Tactics

MYLAR TAPE: Mylar tape can be very effective, it reflects sunlight to produce a flashing effect and produces a humming sound when the wind blows.

- String the tape loosely along the water's edge and twist the material as you string it from stake to stake.

FLAGGING: Another visual scaring technique is the placement of flagging on poles (6' or 5 taller) or other objects in and around an area to be protected.

- Flagging can be made of 3-6' strips of 1" colored plastic tape or 2' x 2' pieces of orange construction flagging. Numerous flags may be needed to protect each acre of open lawn. These materials should be located where they will not become entangled in tree branches or power lines.

EYESPOT BALLOONS: Heavy-duty balloons with eye spots can frighten geese from an area when hung overhead.

- Balloons and other overhead scaring devices are less effective if placed under trees or other obstructions.

If geese become acclimated, frequent relocation of these materials is recommended

TRAINED DOGS: Dogs trained to chase but not harm geese have been used effectively to disperse geese from golf courses, parks, athletic fields and corporate properties.

- Dogs must be closely supervised during this activity. Initially, chasing must be done several times per day for several weeks, after which less frequent but regular patrols will be needed. Dogs generally should not be used when geese are nesting or unable to fly, such as during the molt or when goslings are present.

NOISE MAKERS: Shell crackers are special shells fired from a 12-gauge shotgun that project a firecracker up to 100 yards. These and other devices, such as screamer sirens, bird-bangers, and whistle bombs can be used to disperse birds.

- Noisemakers work best as preventive measures before geese establish a habit of using an area and where the birds are too confined to simply move away from the noise. At sites with a history of frequent use by geese and people, the birds may become acclimated in 1-2 weeks. Noise devices are often not effective for moving nesting geese

****Before using any of these techniques, check with local law enforcement about noise control ordinances, fire safety codes, or restrictions on possession and discharge of firearms.****

OTHER MEAURES: Use of owl decoys may be effective when used with other control techniques. For small ponds, remote control boats can be used to repel geese, and may be practical if local hobbyists are willing to help out.

Goose Deterrents & Hazing Techniques:
Population Control

HUNTING: Hunting in suburban areas is often limited by lack of open spaces and local ordinances more restrictive than state laws, prohibiting discharge of firearms. Where feasible, however, hunting can help slow the growth of resident goose flocks. Hunting removes some birds and discourages others from returning to problem areas. It also increases the effectiveness of noisemakers, because geese will learn that loud noises may be a real threat to their survival.

NEST/EGG REMOVAL: Local population growth may be controlled by preventing geese from nesting successfully.

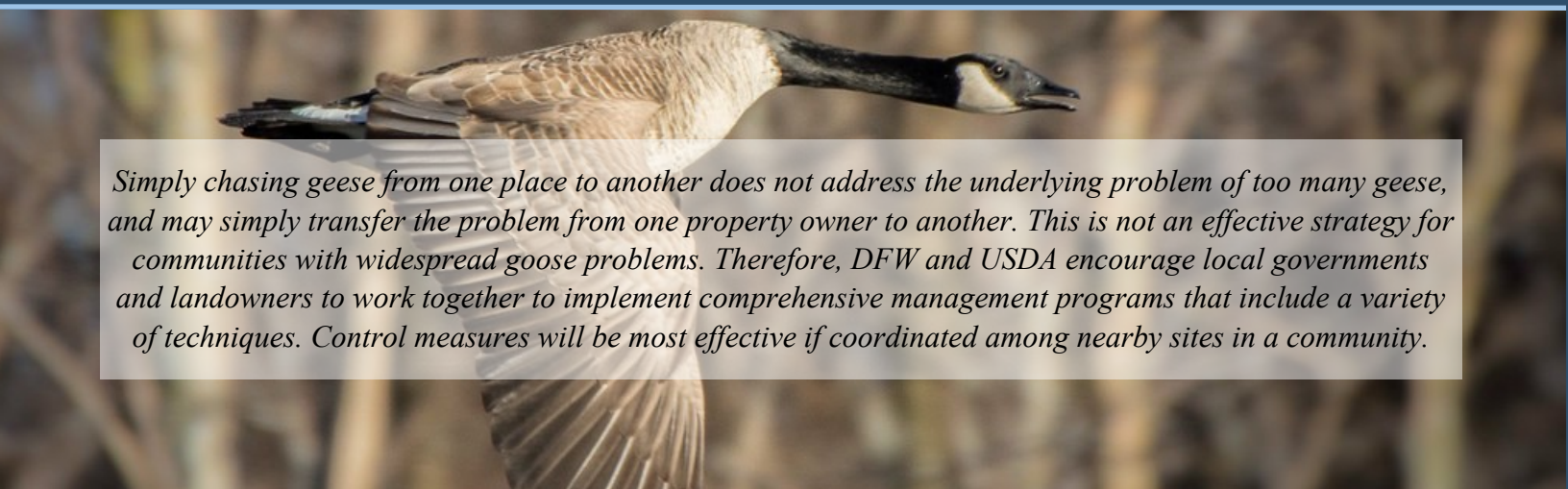
- Although it is difficult to eliminate nesting habitat, harassment in early spring may prevent geese from nesting on a particular site.
- If nest prevention fails, treating the eggs to prevent hatching can be done by puncturing, shaking, or applying corn oil to all of the eggs in a nest. The female goose will continue incubating the eggs until the nesting season is over. If the nest is simply destroyed, or the eggs removed, the female may re-nest and lay new eggs.
- Egg treatment directly reduces the number of geese that will be present on a site later in the year and geese without young will be more easily repelled from a site after the nesting season.
- If conducted on a large enough scale (throughout a town), it can help slow the growth of a local goose population, and over time lead to stable or declining numbers. Egg treatment may be necessary for to 10 years before effects on goose numbers are evident.

***Registration on USFWS website is required to disrupt goose eggs or nests! Please see the "Permit" section of this publication for more information regarding disturbing goose nests and eggs.*

CAPTURE AND REMOVAL: An effective method of relief for sites with problems during the summer, or to help reduce year-round goose numbers in an area, is capture and removal of geese.

***Federal permits are required for this activity.*

- Geese are easy to capture during the molting period by herding them into holding pens. However, capture nets, personnel, and processing fees can be expensive. In large areas, it may be necessary to remove geese for several years to get maximum results.
- Geese removed from problem areas can be processed and donated to charities for use as food. If properly handled by a licensed poultry processor, goose meat is a healthy and well received source of food for needy people. It is illegal to relocate wildlife in Rhode Island.



Simply chasing geese from one place to another does not address the underlying problem of too many geese, and may simply transfer the problem from one property owner to another. This is not an effective strategy for communities with widespread goose problems. Therefore, DFW and USDA encourage local governments and landowners to work together to implement comprehensive management programs that include a variety of techniques. Control measures will be most effective if coordinated among nearby sites in a community.

Managing Resident Canada Geese:
Research & Monitoring

GOOSE BANDING

Each year during the molt, RIDEM Fish and Wildlife Biologists monitor resident Canada goose populations through goose banding.

DFW staff, with the help of dedicated volunteers, capture, band, and release geese from the end of June through early July. During this time geese are flightless as they gain new flight feathers and raise their young. Geese are surrounded either in kayaks on the water or by foot on land and are rounded into a holding pen.

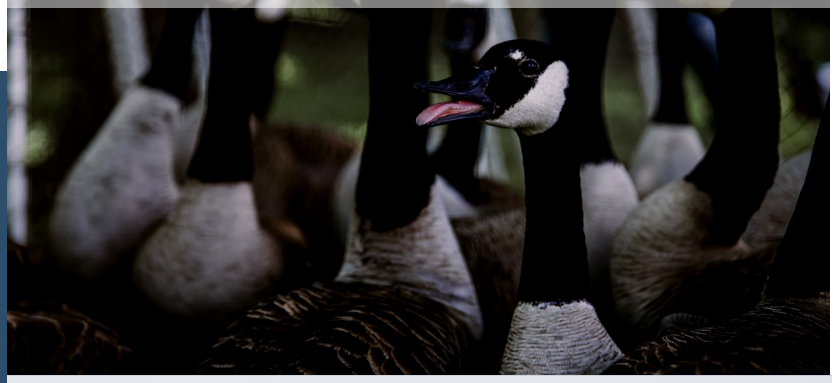
Once the pen is closed, biologists and volunteers begin applying small metal bands to the legs of the geese. Each band has a unique code which identifies each individual bird.

Data from recaptured birds and bands reported as harvested by hunters provide data on the health of the population. Bands can help estimate age and sex ratios, migration patterns, harvest rates, and fecundity.

Staff and volunteers wrangle geese into pens to easily capture and band individuals.

Bands do not harm geese but provide data that is crucial to managing their populations.

Geese are banded as quickly as possible to reduce stress to the animals and are released back into the same area.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are recruited to assist in this effort and often return to help each year. This opportunity requires a full day commitment (days begin around 7am and run to about 1pm -3pm).

Volunteers are engaged in the entire process, from herding geese into a temporary holding pen, to handling, banding, and releasing the birds.

For more information on volunteering with the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Brooks:

Jennifer.brooks@dem.ri.gov.

Each year volunteers enjoy assisting with goose banding and provide additional funding by means of in-kind match.

Managing Resident Geese:
Youth Hunting Opportunities

MENTORED YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

Every year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the Federated RI Sportsmen Club, and other partnering organizations hold a mentored Youth Waterfowl Hunt and Training. All youths age 12 to 15 who have completed a Hunter Education Class may attend.

Typically, orientation and training take place on an earlier date, around the end of September, and the hunt takes place later in October. The RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife provides safety gear and 12 & 20 gauge ammunition. Participants may either bring their own shotgun or borrow one from the Hunter Education Program. A Hunting License and HIP Permit are required to participate in the hunt.

The training session covers the following topics:

- Proper gear & clothing
- Rules & regulations
- Firearm safety in the field
- Waterfowl equipment
- Waterfowl identification
- Hunting with dogs
- Clay target shooting

YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON

A special season is reserved for youth waterfowl hunting in the end of October. Youth hunters ages 12-15 are permitted to hunt ducks, sea ducks and geese during this time with supervision by a licensed adult, 21 years or older. Youth hunters must also be in possession of a resident or non-resident junior hunting license in order to hunt in Rhode Island.

For more information on either of these or other hunting opportunities contact the Hunter Education Coordinator Scott Travers at Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov.

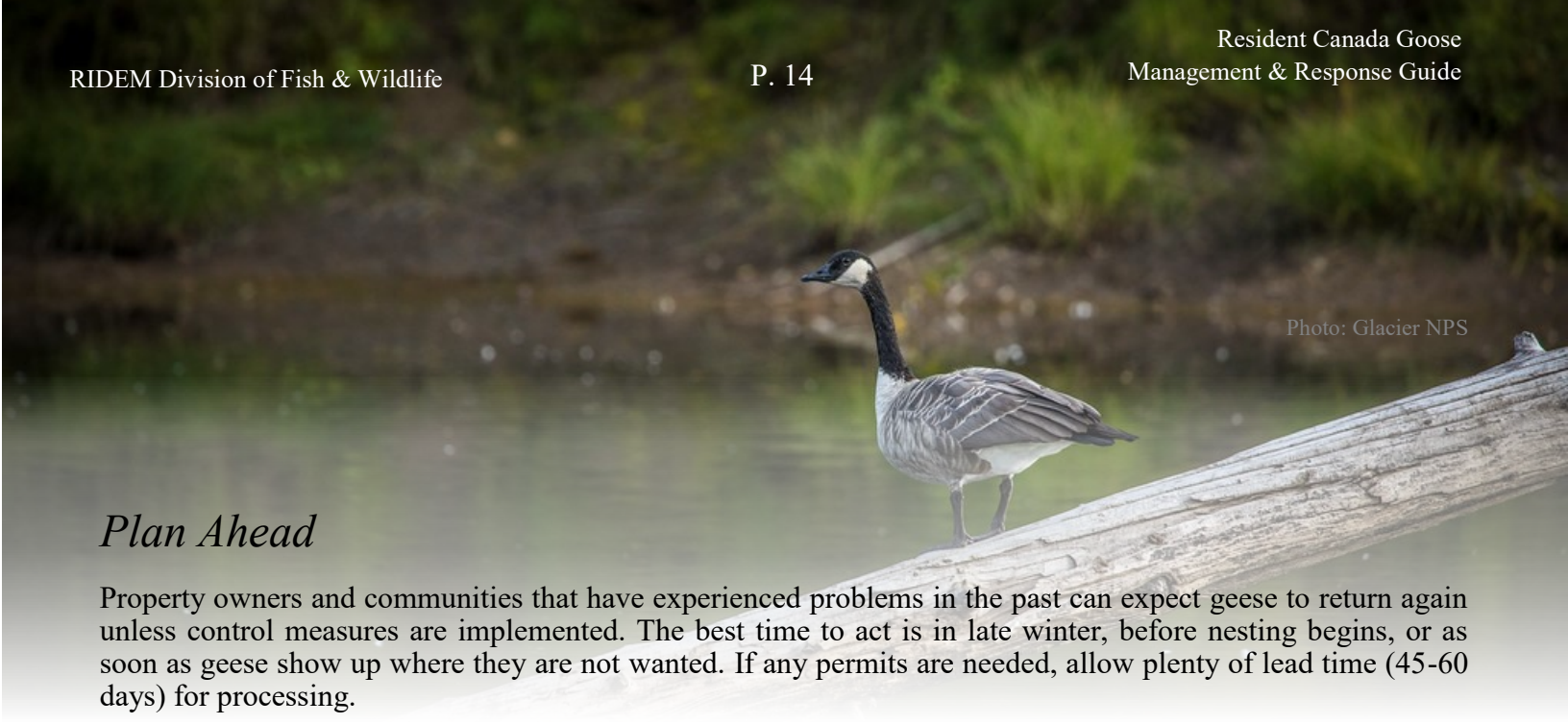


Photo: Glacier NPS

Plan Ahead

Property owners and communities that have experienced problems in the past can expect geese to return again unless control measures are implemented. The best time to act is in late winter, before nesting begins, or as soon as geese show up where they are not wanted. If any permits are needed, allow plenty of lead time (45-60 days) for processing.

For More Information...

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The USDA can provide information by phone or by mail and will conduct site visits in special problem situations. They can also provide control services on site under funded cooperative agreements (for a fee). For help in Rhode Island, contact:

USDA Wildlife Services
463 West Street Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: (413) 253-2403 Fax: (413) 253-7577

RIDEM DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (DFW)

The DFW can provide technical advice and information, however DFW generally does not provide field assistance to individual land owners with goose problems, but will work with local governments to help develop community based management programs. For assistance, contact:

DFW Great Swamp Field Office
277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892
Phone: (401) 789-0281.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Suburban Goose Management: Searching for Balance (28 minute video, $19.95). This video provides a general overview of techniques and issues to help communities begin developing an effective action plan.

Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments: A Technical Guide (42 page manual, $10.00). This manual provides additional details for selecting and implementing various techniques to reduce conflicts with resident geese.

To order the video or manual, contact the Cornell University Media and Technology Services Resource Center, Ithaca, NY, phone (607) 255-2090.

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