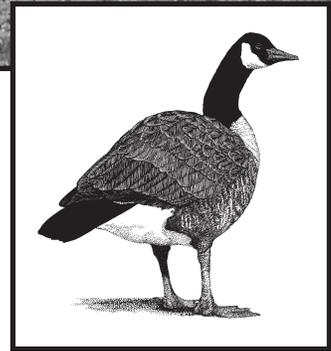


Division of Wildlife

HUMAN - GOOSE CONFLICT



GIANT CANADA GOOSE HISTORY IN OHIO

Giant Canada geese were reportedly extirpated from Ohio between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the century. The Ohio Division of Wildlife initiated a giant Canada goose restoration program with 10 pairs each on three state-owned wetland areas in 1956. Goose population surveys were conducted annually on the three goose management areas since the start of the program; however, the first statewide survey was not conducted until 1979. At that time, Canada geese were nesting in 49 of Ohio's 88 counties with a state population of 18,000 geese. Recent surveys have found goose nests in every county with a population estimate of 84,000 geese, thus this quickly expanding goose population has caused conflicts with our growing human population.



THE HUMAN - GOOSE PROBLEM

Canada geese are probably the most adaptable and tolerant of all native waterfowl. If left undisturbed, they will readily establish nesting territories on any suitable pond, be it located on a farm, backyard, golf course, apartment or condominium complex, or city park. Herein lies one of the major problems. Most people will readily welcome the first pair of geese on their pond, but these geese soon wear out their welcome. In just a few years a pair of geese can easily become 50 to 100 birds that are fouling the area around the pond and surrounding yards, as well as damaging landscaping, gardens, and other vegetation.



Human - Goose Conflict

Additional problems arise when Canada geese feed on agricultural crops. Geese are primarily grazing animals and feed on seeds, grasses, and other young, tender plants. As a result, they can cause damage to crops such as corn, soybeans, sunflowers, and cereal grains when they are in the early growth stage. The key to solving your problem is to make your property less attractive to geese and utilize scare tactics immediately when geese show up.



We have compiled a list of suggestions and techniques for reducing waterfowl conflicts throughout the year. These techniques, especially when employed in combination, have been proven to work. However, they must be employed persistently as soon as the geese arrive on your property. If immediate action is not taken, you will experience much more difficulty in your goose control efforts. A permit is not required to merely scare, repel, or herd nuisance migratory birds, provided no attempt is made to confine the birds or destroy their nests. If, despite your efforts utilizing the following techniques, further control is needed, a special permit is required from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Contact the nearest wildlife district office listed on the back of this sheet



STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY

The Ohio Division of Wildlife holds the statutory responsibility for managing Ohio's wildlife resources. At times, certain species conflict with human interest. These sheets are designed to help the landowner or organization alleviate waterfowl conflict situations.

PROTECTED STATUS

Canada geese and all native waterfowl are protected under both the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Ohio state law. This protection extends to the bird's nest and eggs. It is illegal for any person, agency, or organization to take or attempt to take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect), any bird, nest, or egg outside of the regular hunting season without a special permit from the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

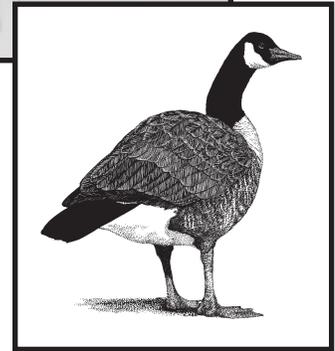
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

HUNTING



HUNTING IS USUALLY THE BEST OPTION

Due to fewer natural predators and the large amount of available habitat (e.g., golf courses, corporate ponds, private lakes, etc.), resident goose numbers have increased dramatically the last few years, especially in urban areas. This in turn causes an increase in the number of human – goose conflicts.

The most successful way to keep the goose population in check and resolve human-goose conflicts is to allow hunting. This option is not possible in every location due to city ordinances or for safety reasons. However, if hunting is feasible, this option should be the number one harassment technique used.

Hunting decreases the number of geese; moreover, hunting will make other harassment techniques more effective. Geese become much warier when hunted. Geese that have been hunted notice helium balloons, loud sounds, or anything else unnatural in an area, and they will be more likely to seek a different area to feed and rest than geese that have only been harassed.



CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON DATES

Canada geese are hunted in the fall and winter throughout Ohio. The Division of Wildlife (DOW) established an early goose season (Sept. 1-15) specifically to harvest resident geese, and many geese involved in conflict situations are taken during this season. Please refer to DOW Publication 298 for more information. Publications can be obtained from DOW district offices which are



Hunting



listed on the bottom of this sheet. The season dates for the regular goose season (Oct. to Jan.) vary from year-to-year depending on the status of the migratory Canada geese which pass through Ohio (DOW Publication 295). A hunting license, state wetlands habitat stamp, federal waterfowl stamp, and a phone-in registration (HIP) are all needed before hunting geese or ducks.

ADVANTAGES OF HUNTING

- Decreases the local goose population
- *Makes other harassment techniques more effective*
- *No cost to landowner*
- *Provides recreation for hunters*
- *Provides food*

ESTABLISHING A GOOSE HUNTING PROGRAM

Goose hunting is well suited to rural agricultural areas; however, hunting within the city limits may raise safety concerns and in most instances will not be feasible. In some situations (e.g., golf courses, large parks away from high-use areas, farms within city limits, and some businesses with a large amount of property), geese can be safely hunted. The local police department should be contacted to receive a variance for discharging a firearm and/or hunting within city limits. The Division of Wildlife does not have the authority to allow discharge of firearms within city limits. Safety concerns related to hunting are noise and pellet fallout (or ricochet).

Goose hunting can be either controlled (limits are placed on who and how many people hunt) or open to the public (with written permission). For most urban/suburban situations the controlled hunt may be the only workable option. Rural hunts can be either open (with permission) or controlled, depending on the location of houses, roads, and adjacent property. In an open hunt, the number of hunters is also controlled but less effort is involved. Contact your county wildlife officer or Division of Wildlife district office for possible waterfowl hunter names.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

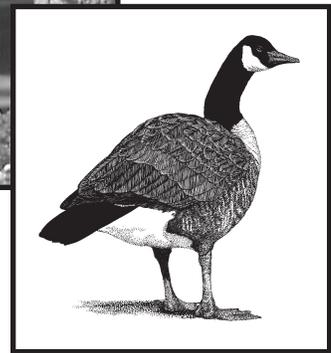
Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife
GOOSE ATTACKS



**GENERAL BACKGROUND
INFORMATION ON ATTACKS**

Geese have adapted well to the ponds and well manicured lawns of urban habitats, which has placed people and geese in proximity to one another. This is especially apparent during the spring when geese aggressively defend their nesting territories. The Ohio Division of Wildlife has documented goose attacks on humans that have caused serious physical injury, such as broken bones and head injuries, and emotional distress. Many of these injuries have occurred when the person tried to avoid an attack and tripped over an object (e.g., stairs, curbs, etc.).

When fed by humans, geese tend to lose their natural fear of people. This lack of fear often leads to more violent attacks during the spring nesting season. In addition, when geese lose their fear they will begin nesting closer to areas that people frequent such as buildings, flower beds, parking lots, picnic tables, etc. People who have had a negative experience are more likely to be afraid of geese upon their next encounter, and often fall victim to attacking geese every time they come into contact with geese. For example, each spring many people are repeatedly attacked by geese nesting next to the entryway of a building they must enter. Individuals who are not afraid of geese usually have trouble understanding how

someone could possibly be afraid of a bird, but to the person who has been attacked and/or injured these threats are real.

**WHY DO GEESE ATTACK ME?
WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE ME
ALONE?**

Breeding instincts are among the strongest drives of animals. Canada geese usually start choosing mates and selecting a territory for nesting in late February to early March. The females start laying eggs anytime from mid-March to mid-May. Incubation by the female begins as soon as all her eggs are laid. The gander's job during nesting season is to defend the female, their nesting territory, and eggs. If a person or another goose enters the territory, the gander will usually give a warning call to the intruder before chasing it away. Some geese can be very aggressive and will only stop their attack when the intruder has left or the goose's life is threatened.



Goose Attacks



WHAT TO DO IF A GOOSE ATTACKS

- Maintain direct eye contact and keep your chest and face pointed at the goose.
- If the goose acts aggressively, calmly and slowly back away, watching for obstacles.
- Maintain a neutral demeanor, i.e., do not act hostile or show fear.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF A GOOSE ATTACKS ME?

Waterfowl have excellent vision. Geese seem to pay very close attention to the eyes and body language of humans and other animals. An encounter with an aggressive goose can usually be resolved if you maintain **direct eye contact** while facing your body directly towards the attacking goose. **Never** turn your back or shoulders away from the hostile goose, and **never** close or squint your eyes or block your eyes with a purse or briefcase. If the goose makes an aggressive move towards you while hissing or spreading out its wings, you should slowly back away while using your peripheral vision to watch for obstacles you could trip over. Maintain a **neutral** demeanor toward the goose (i.e., do not yell, swing, kick, or act hostile). At the same time, do not cower, hide your face, turn your back, or run from the goose. Over aggression may cause the female to join the confrontation which usually causes an even more aggressive attack from the male. If a goose flies up towards your face, then duck or move away at a 90 degree angle to the direction of flight, still facing the attacking goose.

I AM A FACILITY MANAGER, WHAT CAN I DO?

First, you must stop all feeding of geese and take measures to keep the geese off of your property. If avoidance and harassment tactics have failed to discourage geese from nesting on your property, the Division of Wildlife can issue you a permit to remove the eggs, nest, and/or the offending geese. The landowner or facility manager must first contact your local Division of Wildlife District Office to procure this permit. District personnel will provide you the technical assistance you need to address your goose problem.

Prior to the action, the facility manager should notify all employees that the eggs, nest, and/or geese are being removed for the health and safety of all concerned. Some people will be in favor of the removal, some will be adamantly opposed. You will have a better chance of gaining their consent if you are up front and honest in your explanation. Everyone needs to understand the point of view of the people who are frightened by geese - the ones that will be attacked, several times per day, and who are traumatized just thinking about facing the geese.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

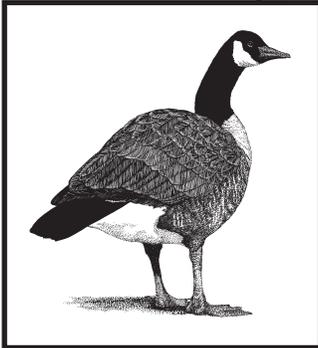
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

DON'T FEED THE GEESE



GENERAL BACKGROUND

People residing in urban and suburban areas enjoy seeing and interacting with wildlife. Feeding ducks and geese brings these birds into proximity to people. People that feed wildlife feel they are helping the birds and this provides these people with a sense of well-being and excitement. To the ducks and geese, however, the result of relying on handouts is devastating. Feeding popcorn, bread, or shelled corn is like feeding a child junk food since the geese are not receiving a balanced diet. This activity is a very selfish pursuit when only one party, humans, derives a benefit.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GEESE LOSE THEIR FEAR OF HUMANS?

Geese that are fed by well-meaning people lose their natural fear of man and reside closer than normal to humans. This can lead to violent attacks during the nesting season (March, April, May), especially to people who are afraid of geese. Most injuries occur when the person is backing away from the attacking gander and trips over a curb, planter, bumper block, or steps. Parks, businesses, apartment or condo associations may be held legally liable for physical or psychological damages. Thus, the goose feeding creates justifiable public health and safety concerns.



Don't Feed the Geese

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF FEEDING

- ☛ Lack of balanced diet may cause wing deformity in goslings, hindering the bird's flight ability
- ☛ Feeding causes overcrowding allowing diseases such as botulism and cholera to spread easily and possibly result in massive waterfowl die-offs
- ☛ Geese lose their fear of humans and become aggressive
- ☛ Feeding reduces the need for geese to migrate so they stay in an area longer and create more problems

WHY BIRD NUMBERS AND PROBLEMS INCREASE WITH FEEDING

Feeding waterfowl attracts and keeps so many birds that the biological carrying capacity (how many birds the environment can naturally support) is exceeded, and the birds are staying only because of the unnatural feeding activity by humans. This leads to damage to the grounds, (i.e., grass destroyed, people walking through feces and bringing the feces, on shoes, into restaurants, work or homes). Goose droppings at parks are also a concern to the parents of children playing in the parks. The cultural carrying capacity (how many geese people can tolerate) is usually much lower than the biological carrying capacity. Park, business, apartment/condo or facility managers are faced with a dilemma each day – “how do I get rid of the overpopulated geese or ducks.”

WHAT CAN FACILITY MANAGERS DO TO STOP THE FEEDING

Facility or park managers need to educate their constituents about the potential hazards to geese and people associated with feeding waterfowl. Newsletters, pamphlets, and/or signs are usually the easiest and most convenient method to convey the message.

Newsletters or pamphlets should be distributed to employees, associates, and members. This publication can be duplicated and/or reprinted as you see fit. Signs requiring or urging people not to feed the ducks and geese can be placed at picnic or eating areas, parking lots, beaches, etc. People can still interact with wildlife, just leave the food at home.

If we truly care for waterfowl, here is what we can do to improve their chances of survival:

- 1.) **Stop feeding** the ducks and geese. Help them to retain their “wildness” and maintain their health. They do not understand nutrition
- 2.) Learn more about waterfowl by visiting a library, nature center, zoo, museum, or a state wildlife area --- then teach your friends and family what stewardship of wildlife is all about.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

VISUAL DETERRENENTS



SEEING IS OFTEN BELIEVING FOR GEESE

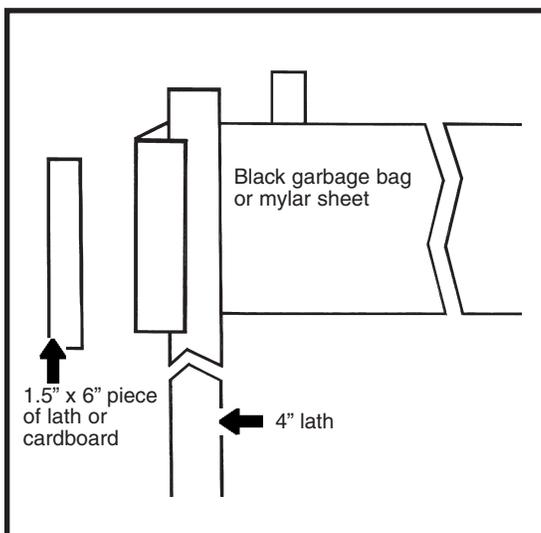
Almost any foreign object placed in a field will initially repel geese. The length of time frightening devices are effective depends on the type, number, and variety of devices used. Regardless of the type, devices should be moved every two to three days to prevent habituation by the geese. Visual repellents should be in place before the start of the damage season (Feb./Mar.) to prevent geese from establishing a use pattern.

Visual repellents, including flags, scarecrows and balloons, should be used at the rate of one to two per acre before geese become accustomed to using the area (Feb./Mar.). More may become necessary as the season progresses. For optimum results, supplement devices with automatic exploders and/or pyrotechnics (See Technical Guidelines Sheet on Pyrotechnics).

FLAGS

Flags can be made by using four foot wooden stakes or laths and 6"x 30" sheets of three mil safety orange plastic or Mylar. Wrap 3 inches of the end of the plastic or Mylar sheet around the stake and staple a piece of cardboard or lath (1.5" x 6") to both sides of the stake, sandwiching the plastic or Mylar between the stake and cardboard to prevent the material from tearing in strong winds.

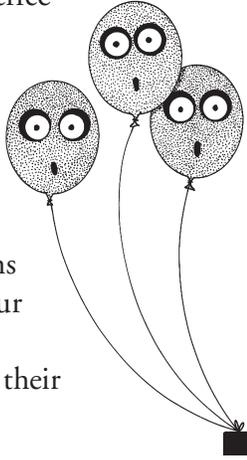
Plain black trash bags tacked onto lath or other wooden stakes can be an effective means at repelling geese from large grass areas or cropfields. Place flags so they are visible by geese from all points within a field. Geese will land in an area where flags are not visible. Once the birds land in a field and begin feeding, the flags' effectiveness may be lost.



Visual Deterrents

BALLOONS

Helium balloons staked in open fields or anchored over water, have proven effective in repelling geese. Tether the balloons with 75 lb. test monofilament line at least 10 feet into the air. The use of balloons larger than two feet in diameter is not recommended due to their increased wind resistance. Balloons should be moved every three to four days to increase their effectiveness. Eyespots on balloons also increase their effectiveness.



MYLAR TAPE

Mylar Tape is a shiny foil-colored tape that comes in rolls approximately 1/2" - 3" wide. Mylar also comes in sheets up to 36" wide. Mylar works by reflecting sunlight, and when wound in a spiral with the bright red and silver coated sides alternating, any movement of the wind will cause the tape to flash brilliantly. This brilliant flashing seems to signal danger to birds. For best results install prior to the damage (nesting) season (Feb./Mar.). If you do not install Mylar tape until after the geese have nested, you are probably just wasting time and money. Irritape is another type of tape similar to Mylar that uses a prism pattern printed in the tape to reflect sunlight in all directions.

Mylar can be installed in many situations.

For example: Start by inserting your fingertips into the cardboard center of the roll as if you were putting on a bracelet. Tie the lead end of the ribbon to the first stake, then play out the ribbon as you walk. This automatically causes the ribbon to spiral as it is being fed out. Take up the slack but not enough to take the spiral out of it. Do this on all areas that border the waters edge.

SCARECROWS

Scarecrows can be made from a variety of materials; however, three features should be incorporated in any scarecrow design: movement, bright colors, and large eyes. For maximum effect, the arms and legs should readily move in the wind. Construction materials should be of bright colors. The brighter the color the better it can be seen. Bright red, blaze orange or safety yellow are recommended. Also, the larger the eyes, the more effective the scarecrow.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

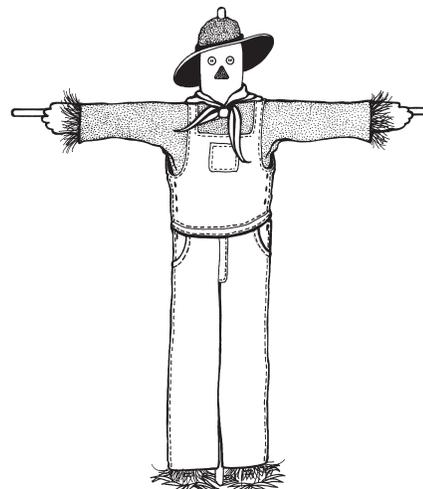
Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

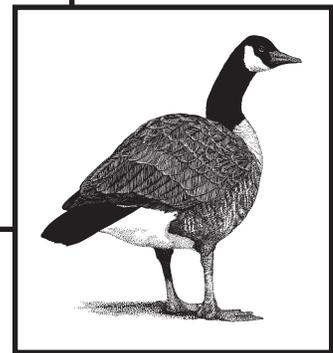
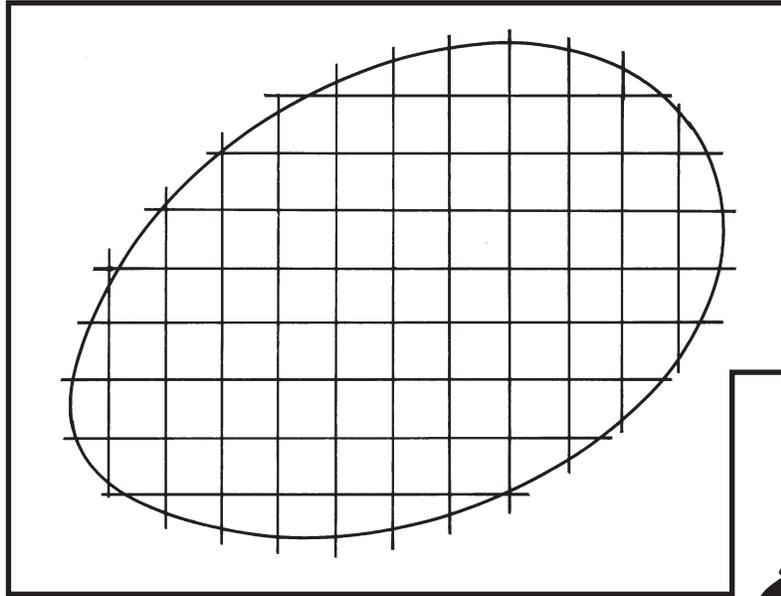
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

PHYSICAL BARRIERS



POND GRIDS

Bodies of water are the focal point of residential waterfowl activity. Denying the birds easy access to these areas is an effective control measure. Overhead grid systems composed of sturdy posts and Kevlar wire (e.g., Philly strand) have been used successfully to deny geese access to small ponds. For initial installation, posts which support the line should be spaced 20' apart. If this spacing proves ineffective, additional posts can be placed between the original posts, thus creating a 10' grid.

A grid system might be installed several feet above the water surface to permit human utilization of the pond; however, grids are most effective if installed approximately 1' above the surface. Effectiveness is also enhanced by installing bright reflective objects on the line at scattered locations. As it will be necessary to keep the lines taut, posts must be well anchored, and each line should be equipped with a device (e.g., turnbuckles) to take up the slack.

PERIMETER FENCING

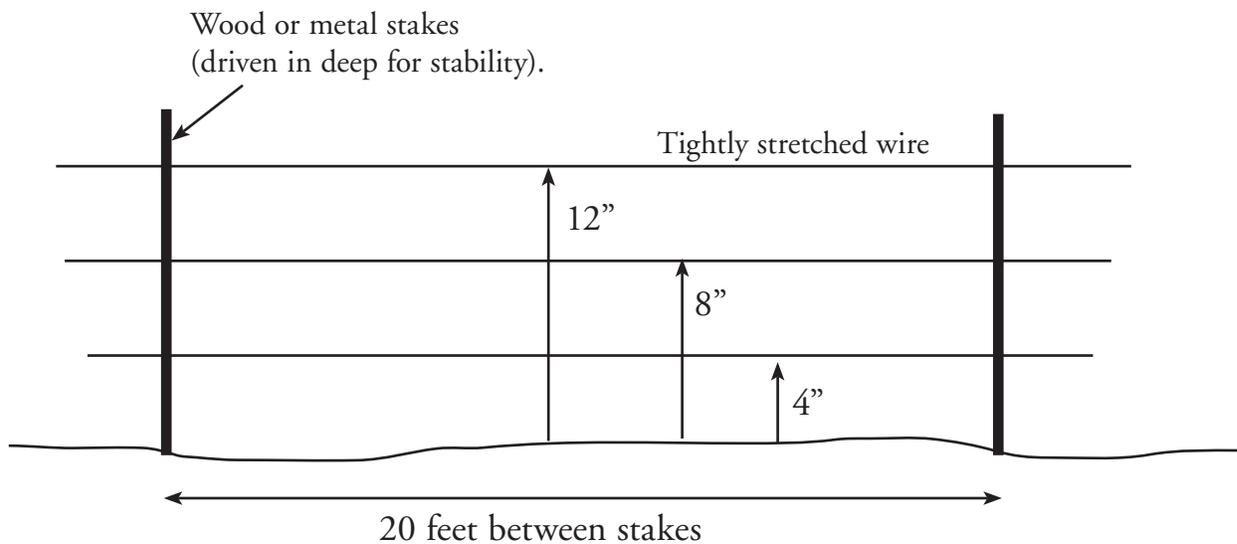
Waterfowl may learn to alight on adjacent land areas and walk in underneath the grid system to gain access to the water. Consequently, perimeter fencing may be required. This fencing may be constructed for permanent or temporary use. Plastic material is most suitable for temporary fencing. It is relatively cheap and can be easily installed by utilizing existing fence posts and twist ties. Other alternatives include 3' high chicken wire or a split-rail fence with chicken wire or plastic netting on the bottom 18". A no-cost alternative would be to allow a 10'-20' border around the perimeter of the pond to develop tall, thick vegetation (e.g., prairie grass or shrubs) which might function as a barrier to "walk-in" geese.



Physical Barriers

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Physical barriers should be installed prior to March 1, before goose territories are established, and the barriers should be left intact at least until July 1st. It is best if the barrier is left up all year.
- Erect a multi-strand fence completely around the perimeter of the pond. The fence consists of 2 or 3 strands of thin wire strung 4", 8", and 12" off the ground.
- When properly installed and maintained, this fence will prevent the geese from walking from the pond into your yard and makes the property less attractive to nesting geese.
- Three-foot long sections of rebar make good stakes and can easily be concealed with ornamental plants, if desired.
- Do not leave any openings in the barrier or the geese will walk through the opening.
- Keep the strands tight. If the line is allowed to sag (as is common with fishing line), the geese will walk through or over it.



Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

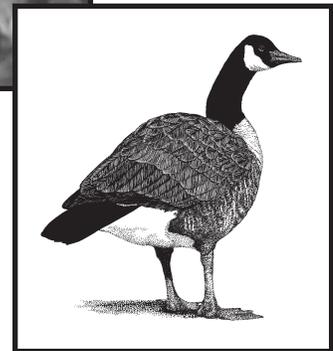
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

MECHANICAL SCARE DEVICES (HAZING)



USING NOISE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Birds react to unfamiliar sounds. Almost any loud, foreign sound will startle, and repel geese and other waterfowl. Birds do learn to ignore sounds that have proven harmless, especially if they are used often and for long periods of time. Prior to initiating a harassment program in urban areas, consult state, county and local authorities regarding noise ordinances.

In addition to products specifically designed to scare birds, many ordinary appliances found around the home can be used. Mechanical scare devices include, but are not limited to:

- leaf blowers
- electronic alarms
- air horns
- sirens
- alarm or distress calls

A propane exploder is a very effective tool for harassing geese on your property.



Mechanical Scare Devices

PROPER PREPARATION AND DIVERSITY ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

The keys to successful bird harassment are timing, persistence, organization, and diversity. Geese and other waterfowl are much more likely to leave an area that they have occupied briefly, than one which they have become fully accustomed. It is imperative to begin scare tactics as soon as **the geese arrive on your property in February and March**. Once geese have started actively nesting almost nothing will work to drive them off your property.

Proper organization is also important when starting a frightening program. The more diverse the techniques used, and the more easily the operation can be changed, the more effective it will be. Once initiated, the program must be persistently applied as necessary each day, until success is achieved.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters (614) 265-6300 1-800-750-0750 (TTY) 1-800-WILDLIFE	
Wildlife District One (614) 644-3925	
Wildlife District Two (419) 424-5000	
Wildlife District Three (330) 644-2293	
Wildlife District Four (740) 589-9930	
Wildlife District Five (937) 372-9261	

USE THAT YANKEE INGENUITY

- ☛ Don't be afraid to experiment with different types of noise-makers
- ☛ Sirens wired to movement-sensing devices are effective for harassing geese as soon as they arrive
- ☛ Most importantly, BE PERSISTENT!!!



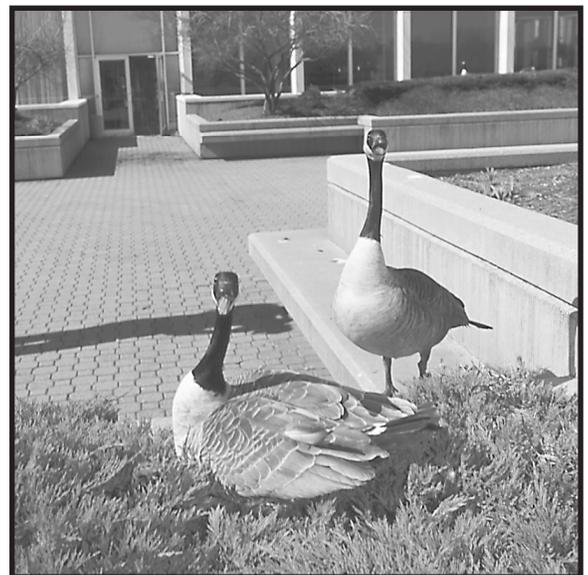
HABITAT MODIFICATION



KEEP OFF THE GRASS

Land management is by far the most successful deterrent to goose conflicts. Geese can be discouraged from using an area by making the pond and surrounding area unattractive.

Geese are grazers and rely on grass for the majority of their diet. Geese can be discouraged from using these grass areas by the following methods: 1.) Reduce or eliminate fertilizer applications to the surrounding grass area to make the grass less tasty and nutritious to the geese. 2.) Plant grass species that are less tasty, such as tall fescue (has a bitter taste). 3.) Seed surrounding areas to natural prairie grasses or other tall vegetation. 4.) Above all, **do not allow anyone to feed the geese.**



Habitat Modification

MISCELLANEOUS MODIFICATIONS

- *Pond aerators should be shut off in the winter. Allow the pond to freeze. Open water only encourages geese to stay and is an attractant to other geese.*
- *Geese tend to stay away from areas with brushy edges or thick cover that hides predators. Dense plantings around feeding areas and tall trees in flight paths will deter geese from using these areas*

KEEP GEESE IN THE POND

Geese generally will not use a pond if they cannot easily fly in to it, swim in it, or walk out of it. Placing ornamental grasses or a row of densely planted shrubs around the edge of a pond is pleasing to the eye and will effectively deter geese from coming on shore. Replacing grass areas around ponds with unpalatable ground-covers (e.g., periwinkle, Japanese pachysandra and English Ivy) can also be a good deterrent. Construct new ponds with an 18-24" inch vertical bank at the water's edge.

Discourage geese from using existing ponds by vertically straightening the banks. Placing large boulders or rip-rap along the edge of a pond makes it more difficult, but not impossible for geese to enter and exit the water.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

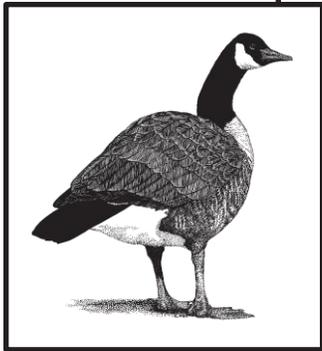
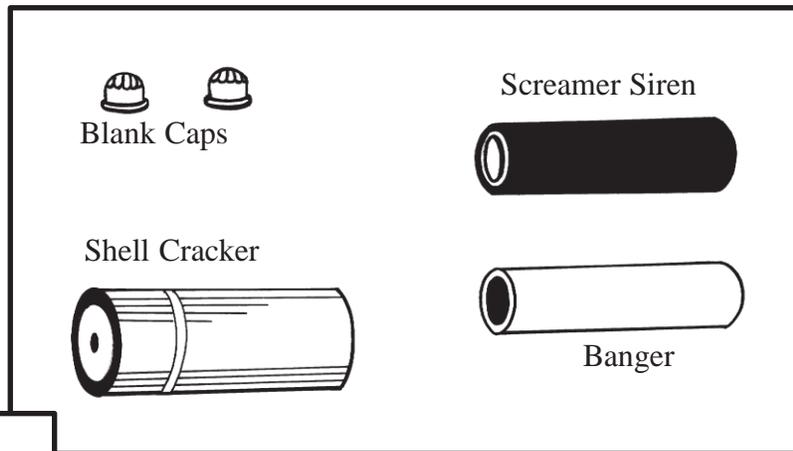
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

NOISE MAKERS



WHAT ARE NOISE MAKERS?

Noise makers are specialized fireworks that are shot out of a 12-gauge shotgun or a starter's pistol. There are three basic types of noise makers: screamers, bangers, and shell crackers.

For best results, begin harassment early in the season (Feb./Mar.) and during dusk or early evening when the birds begin to congregate in numbers. Harassment at this time will disperse the birds before they roost for the night and become accustomed to the area. **Noise makers will only work prior to nesting and again after young geese have learned to fly.** Using noise makers between those times will not drive the geese away.

Do not overuse noise makers because wildlife can become accustomed to the persistent noise. It is advised to wait until several birds are present before using noise makers. Many times congregated birds must be harassed for several days, even weeks, before any results will be seen. Be persistent and you will succeed.

Obey local laws and noise ordinances. It is advised to contact local law enforcement officials before using noise makers.

TYPES OF NOISE MAKERS

Screamers and bangers are shot out of a starter's pistol and travel about 75 to 100 feet. Screamers are like bottle rockets, producing a high shrill and leaving a trail of smoke. Bangers produce a loud bang equivalent to a 60mm firecracker.

Shell crackers are shot out of a 12-gauge shotgun and travel about 200 feet before exploding. It is advised that an inexpensive single-shot shotgun that breaks and loads at the breech be used. This is to allow for inspection of the barrel after each shot (shell crackers can lodge in the barrel) and ease of cleaning after use as shell crackers leave corrosive residue in the barrel. It is also important that an open choke (improved cylinder or less) be used as opposed to a tight choke (full or modified). This will ensure there is no restriction when the shell cracker exits the barrel.



Noise Makers

SAFETY

- 1.) Always wear safety eye glasses and hearing protection when using noise makers.
- 2.) Check the firearm barrel for blockage after each shot. It is advised to run a cleaning rod with a bore brush through the shotgun barrel after every fifth shot what using shell crackers.
- 3.) Be aware of possible fire hazards. Never fire noise makers where smoldering debris may fall in dry grass or on building roofs. Keep a fire extinguisher handy at all times.
- 4.) Never fire noise makers into strong winds. Be aware of wind direction and use it to your advantage.
- 5.) Noise makers should be launched from a 45 degree angle to the horizon.
- 6.) If you do not hear or see the noise maker explode, do not look down either end of the firearm. Keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction and be prepared for a delayed firing. Wait at least one minute. If the noise maker does not explode, keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction and then eject the shell from the gun. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for disposing of the unfired shell (i.e., water deluge).
- 7.) While using noise makers at airports, never fire noise makers in a manner that debris might fall on runways and taxiways and possibly be ingested by jet engines.
- 8.) Abide by local laws and inform law enforcement officials before using noise makers.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EXPLOSIVE PEST CONTROL DEVICES

As of May 1, 2011 the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will require all users (city, county and governmental agencies are exempt but are still subject to storage and transport requirements) of explosive pest control devices to have a federal explosives permit.

Screamer Sirens have been exempted from the licensing process, only a use statement is needed

Call the ATF with questions at 888-283-2622

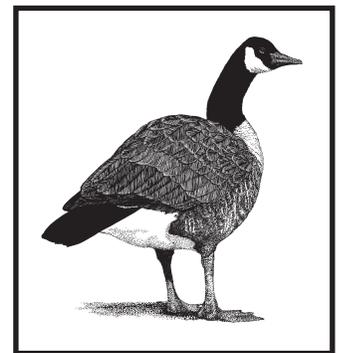
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *ALWAYS make SAFETY your number one priority*
- *DO NOT aim noise makers directly at the geese*
- *Be considerate of your neighbors when using noise makers*
- *When combined with legal hunting, noise makers work extremely well*



Division of Wildlife

BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS



DOGS CAN BE MAN'S BEST FRIEND IN MANAGING GEESE

Almost any obedient breed of dog, when trained, can be used to discourage Canada geese; however, border collies seem to be the breed of choice. Humans have enlisted the assistance of border collies for centuries. Most commonly noted for their ability to herd livestock, they have also been known to assist the physically challenged, to serve as sled dogs, participate in competitive sports and simply serve as human companions. A border collie's natural herding instinct, along with some command training, make it particularly useful for discouraging Canada geese from areas with ponds including golf courses, apartment complexes, and industrial parks.

In herding, border collies circle and stalk the object of interest. Border collies work to discourage geese by simply keeping the birds on the run and/or in the water until they become frustrated and leave the area. It is best to use dogs to discourage geese *before and/or after the nesting season* (before March 15th or after eggs have hatched). Once geese are actively nesting almost nothing will work to drive them off your property.

Border collies are widely available on both the sheepdog and pet market. Some border collies are not suited for the rigors of field trials. These dogs make good goose dogs, as well as a good pet for someone who wants to own and care for the dog. There are organizations set up to place these border collies into situations where they can be useful.



Biological Controls

PROPER USE OF BORDER COLLIES

Several golf courses and public parks have used border collies quite successfully. Below are a couple of tips which have been found to be most successful: 1.) Start working with dogs very early in the spring before goose pairs have arrived (Feb. & Mar.). Go out four to five times per day to chase the geese away, and also go out at dusk when some geese may try to return to roost. 2.) Most geese leave after three or four weeks of harassment; however, if geese start nesting, almost nothing will drive them away. 3.) It is important to chase new goose arrivals frequently and persistently at least once a day. 4.) The dogs can clear a golf course of geese while golfers are there, since it requires less than 60 seconds of interference. Usually, the geese see the dog and start honking – signaling others to fly. 5.) Dogs are trained to commands and will respond to more than one person, although they tend to be one-person dogs. 6.) Border collies need to work. If left alone, the collies become hyperactive and may dig in the lawn and chew flowers. Therefore, we do not recommend you purchase one of these dogs unless you are able to properly care for them. Some rental services are available.

MUTE SWANS - NOT A GOOD IDEA

Mute swans are sometimes used to repel Canada geese; however, the Division of Wildlife strongly advises AGAINST this technique for the following reasons: 1.) Mute swans are an exotic/non-native species that will cause conflicts with our native trumpeter swans. Mute swans do escape, turn feral, and drive out native ducks and geese from their natural habitat. Therefore, mute swans should never be used as goose deterrents. 2.) Swans, when actively nesting, are extremely aggressive towards humans, more so than Canada geese. In fact, the only two instances of human fatalities attributed to waterfowl in the United States were caused by mute swans. 3.) Swans seem to be very aggressive towards ducks, however swans are not always effective against larger species like Canada geese. 4.) Mute swans must be pinioned to prevent their escape; therefore, the excess food not eaten by the swans and an aerated pond in the winter makes your property even more attractive to geese.



Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

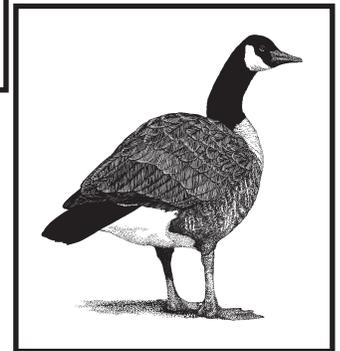
Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

LASERS



Lasers provide a goose harassment tool which can be used in urban areas without disturbing your neighbors. If done correctly and at the right time, geese are scared by the laser beam, and quickly leave an area when harassed with a laser. Lasers are not effective against geese that are actively nesting, on goslings that cannot fly, or on adult geese that are molting and cannot fly. If you have geese on your property that are actively nesting, lasers should not be used from the period that the first egg is laid up until goslings are able to fly (usually from March 15 – August 1). In several studies conducted by USDA Wildlife Services and the Division of Wildlife, the geese never grew accustomed to the laser and always responded immediately. The average harassment time needed before the geese left the area generally decreased with more frequent use of the laser.

Location

Laser harassment is effective during low light periods like early morning and late evening. Green lasers may be effective during the daytime on cloudy days; neither red nor green lasers are effective on bright sunny days. If the geese are using an area during the day and evening, laser harassment at night will need to be combined with daytime harassment to cause the geese to leave the area during daylight. Small ponds or lakes (<20 ac.) are well-suited to laser harassment. Lasers are not as effective on larger lakes because the harassed birds will often just fly to the other end of the lake. However, if the person conducting the harassment is persistent and relocates so that the laser can reach the birds, the geese will eventually leave the area. Complete access around the lake's perimeter is also helpful so that the person conducting the harassment can get to the birds wherever they are located. The size of the roosting area will be a factor in determining the strength of the laser required. If the roosting area is a small 1/4-acre pond, a small laser pointer from an office supply store may work; larger areas will require larger lasers. Several Class 3 compliant lasers which have wavelengths of 532 nanometers are available for less than \$200 via the internet and run on small replaceable batteries.



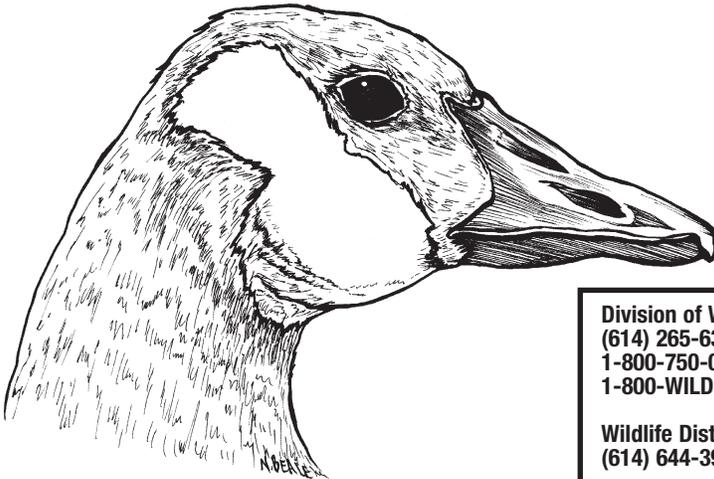
Lasers

Technique

When harassing the geese, start by directing the laser at a point several yards away from the geese, and slowly move the beam towards the geese. The geese see the beam moving toward them and usually take flight before the beam reaches them. If the beam needs to be directed towards the geese, aim it at their chests or sides and not at their eyes. This will avoid possible disorientation of the geese and any possible eye damage. Be aware of any people or houses that are behind the harassment areas so that they are not subjected to the beam reflecting off of the water.

Points to Consider

- Bright ambient lighting near the roosting area will decrease the effectiveness of the laser, and if it is bright enough, may render the laser ineffective.
- The laser is not effective on areas where people feed the geese. The lasers will cause the geese to leave temporarily, but they will return if food is available.
- Lasers are most effective in areas where geese are not exposed to a lot of disturbance.
- No type of harassment or hazing (including the use of a laser) will make geese leave an area if they are actively nesting (have eggs), or if they cannot fly.
- With any method of harassment, being consistent and persistent with the techniques is critical to success.
- Research suggests that green lasers are more effective than red.



Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

CHEMICAL REPELLENTS



TYPES OF REPELLENTS

Two types of chemicals are currently registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as goose repellents: methyl anthranilate (MA) and anthraquinone (AQ). Both chemicals were originally designed to be sprayed on grass, thus making the grass unpalatable to geese. In recent years, however, MA has also been used as an aerosol to chase geese away.

MA is a naturally occurring nontoxic, biodegradable food ingredient found in concord grapes and orange blossoms. It has been used as a fragrance and flavoring in many consumer products, such as grape bubble gum and is less toxic than table salt. Two MA-based repellents found in the marketplace are ReJeXiT and Repel.

AQ is a naturally occurring compound found in a wide variety of plants and is virtually odorless. The compound is harmless to wildlife and humans, and it persists in all weather conditions (rain, snow, ice). Flight Control is the only AQ-based repellent currently on the market.

FOR BEST RESULTS, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS

All chemical repellents have specific instructions on the label which explain the proper application techniques and directions. It is extremely important to follow the label directions so that the repellents will work properly. In general terms, for turf application MA or AQ is mixed with water at the specified dilution rate and applied to grass areas where the birds are feeding. When geese feed on the treated grass, the repellent causes a strong reaction in the geese, thus causing them to avoid the treated grass. When used as an aerosol, MA is poured into a thermal fogger which is taken upwind of the geese and started. The fog will drift onto the geese, and the vaporized MA irritates the birds' mucous linings causing them to leave the area.



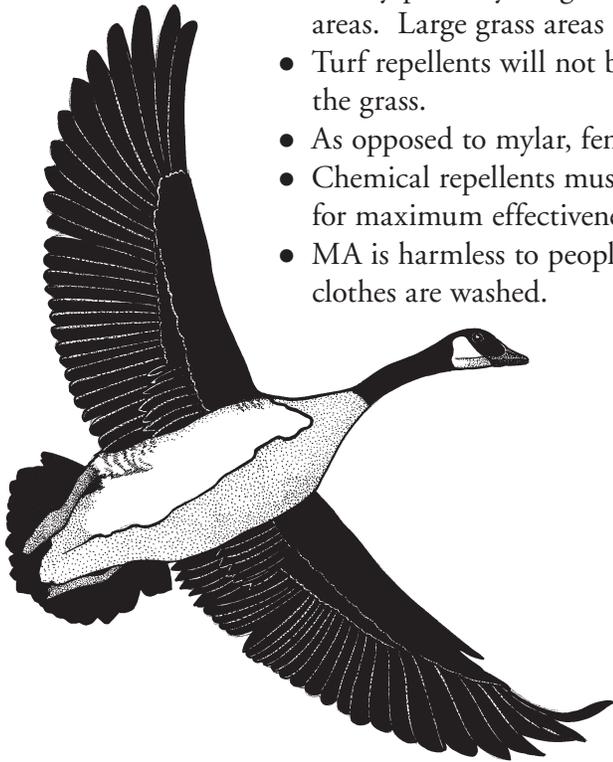
Chemical Repellents

Timing the application of chemical repellents is critical for maximum effectiveness. Turf repellents will not be effective against geese that are actively nesting (i.e., sitting on eggs). In addition, turf repellents will be more effective if used before geese have developed a strong habit of feeding on the grass in an area.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Effectiveness of the turf repellents varies for each conflict situation. The type of repellent, timing of application, frequency of application, size of the area, number of geese present, and use or non-use of other harassment techniques all contribute to success or failure.

- Turf repellents tend to be expensive, and they must be applied more than once.
- You will need to reapply sprays after each mowing or rainfall, depending on the product.
- Fogging may have to be used repeatedly during the first couple of days until the birds clear the area.
- If only part of your grass area is treated, geese will continue to feed in untreated areas. Large grass areas may not be practical for application.
- Turf repellents will not be effective on areas where geese are present, but not eating, the grass.
- As opposed to mylar, fences, grids, etc., chemical repellents are nearly invisible.
- Chemical repellents must be used in conjunction with other harassment techniques for maximum effectiveness, not as a stand-alone measure.
- MA is harmless to people, but it will give your clothing a grape smell until the clothes are washed.



Division of Wildlife Headquarters
(614) 265-6300
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
(937) 372-9261



Division of Wildlife

GENERAL/RESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES TIMELINE



The best tool for discouraging Canada geese from using your property is harassment. There are many methods of harassing geese, including hunting (where feasible), using dogs, pyrotechnics and other scare devices. However, none of the harassment methods will be effective if not employed **correctly** or at the **proper time of year**. The appropriate harassment activities for your particular situation should be carefully chosen and timed based on the season of the year and type of groups of geese you are trying to discourage.

There are two different types of geese that may be present on your property:

1. **Migratory Geese** – Geese that migrate to/from their winter and breeding areas. Migratory geese usually show up in early fall and may persist in Ohio throughout the winter. They generally are wary and are easily hazed. Migratory geese are often attracted to an area due to the presence of resident geese.
2. **Resident Geese** – Geese that stay in one general area throughout most of the year but may migrate short distances during periods of severe weather. These geese are usually in an urban/suburban area. Generally resident geese are familiar with local water and food sources and are much more difficult to haze or deter from your property

A goose problem can consist of one or both of two different groups of geese:

1. **Flocked Geese** – Geese that generally stay together while feeding and when flying from place to place. Flocks can number from as little as a few geese to hundreds of birds. This behavior is seen most commonly in the fall and winter months. It can also occur during the spring and summer when several non-breeding age geese stay together while other pairs of geese are actively nesting.
2. **Paired Geese** – Two geese (a male and a female) that have paired to raise young. Nesting geese can be aggressive to humans, pets, automobiles and other geese when protecting their nest and/or young from what they perceive as a threat. In general, nesting geese are very difficult to discourage once they have laid eggs or have hatched young that are not yet old enough to fly.

You must pay close attention to the geese on your property to determine if you are dealing with flocked and/or paired geese. Often you will be dealing with both types of geese during different times of the year. The other side of this sheet is a summary by month of suggested actions that should be taken to discourage geese from your property.



General/Residential Goose Harassment Timeline

Month	Activity of Geese	Response from Landowner	Suggested Techniques
January	Migratory geese are moving through the area. Some pairs of breeding age geese may break away from the flocks in early preparation of the nesting season.	Employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
February	Geese begin to pair up and separate themselves from the flock. Non-breeding geese group together. Migratory flocks leave the area.	Begin EXTENSIVE harassment techniques to get rid of both migrating geese and paired geese. Fence off nesting areas where geese caused conflicts in previous year (ie. Doorways and walkways). Fill out a complaint form at www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
March	Geese are paired and begin to set up nesting territories. Non-breeding geese may also be present.	Continue to use EXTENSIVE harassment techniques unless eggs are found in a nest. If at least one egg is found in a nest, harassment is not effective since geese won't abandon an active nest. Contact Division of Wildlife in early March if your tactics aren't working for technical advice.	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
April	Geese lay eggs in early April and begin incubating the eggs in late April. Non-breeding geese are still in flocks.	Keep records of where each nest is located. Contact Division of Wildlife to inquire about a nest destruction permit. Harass non-breeding geese off of your property.	Fencing Nest Destruction Permit Apply Turf Repellent
May	Most goose eggs begin to hatch. Flocks of non-breeding geese may still be in area.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Family groups may be "herded" off of your property. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto your property.	Fencing Habitat Modification
June	Geese begin molting their feathers and are unable to fly.	Continue to herd the adult and young geese off of your property. Contact Division of Wildlife in early June to inquire about a roundup permit	Fencing Habitat Modification Roundup Permit
July	Adult and young geese are able to fly around mid-July. Resident geese continue to form flocks.	Continue to harass geese off of your property. If you have young geese, they will soon be able to fly and when they do begin EXTENSIVE harassment	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Apply Turf Repellent
August	Resident geese are in flocks.	Report results of goose damage permits at: www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/Goose/login.aspx by Sep. 1. All goose damage permits expire August 31. Continue to harass geese off of your property.	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Dogs
September	Resident geese are in flocks.	If feasible, allow goose hunting on your property during the September goose season (Sep. 1-15) Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
October	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Goose hunting season usually starts in mid- October. Encourage hunting on your property, if feasible. Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Repair Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
November	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
December	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices



Division of Wildlife
**AGRICULTURAL/RURAL
HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES TIMELINE**



The best tool for discouraging Canada geese from using your property is harassment. There are many methods of harassing geese, including hunting (where feasible), using dogs, pyrotechnics and other scare devices. However, none of the harassment methods will be effective if not employed **correctly** or at the **proper time of year**. The appropriate harassment activities for your particular situation should be carefully chosen and timed based on the season of the year and type of groups of geese you are trying to discourage.

There are two different types of geese that may be present on your property:

1. **Migratory Geese** – Geese that migrate to/from their winter and breeding areas. Migratory geese usually show up in early fall and may persist in Ohio throughout the winter. They generally are wary and are easily hazed. Migratory geese are often attracted to an area due to the presence of resident geese.
2. **Resident Geese** – Geese that stay in one general area throughout most of the year but may migrate short distances during periods of severe weather. These geese are usually in an urban/suburban area. Generally resident geese are familiar with local water and food sources and are much more difficult to haze or deter from your property

A goose problem can consist of one or both of two different groups of geese:

1. **Flocked Geese** – Geese that generally stay together while feeding and when flying from place to place. Flocks can number from as little as a few geese to hundreds of birds. This behavior is seen most commonly in the fall and winter months. It can also occur during the spring and summer when several non-breeding age geese stay together while other pairs of geese are actively nesting.
2. **Paired Geese** – Two geese (a male and a female) that have paired to raise young. Nesting geese can be aggressive to humans, pets, automobiles and other geese when protecting their nest and/or young from what they perceive as a threat. In general, nesting geese are very difficult to discourage once they have laid eggs or have hatched young that are not yet old enough to fly.

You must pay close attention to the geese on your property to determine if you are dealing with flocked and/or paired geese. Often you will be dealing with both types of geese during different times of the year. The other side of this sheet is a summary by month of suggested actions that should be taken to discourage geese from your property.



Agricultural/Rural Goose Harassment Timeline

Month	Activity of Geese	Response from Landowner	Suggested Techniques
January	Migratory geese are moving through the area. Some pairs of breeding age geese may break away from the flocks in early preparation of the nesting season.	Employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
February	Geese begin to pair up and separate themselves from the flock. Non-breeding geese group together. Migratory flocks leave the area.	Begin EXTENSIVE harassment techniques to get rid of migrating geese and any paired geese. Fill out a complaint form at www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict	Pyrotechnics Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
March	Geese are paired and begin to set up nesting territories. Non-breeding geese may also be present.	Continue to use EXTENSIVE harassment techniques unless eggs are found in a nest. If at least one egg is found in a nest, harassment is not effective since geese won't abandon an active nest. Contact Division of Wildlife in early March if your tactics aren't working for technical advice. If you have crops being eaten now, call your local district office to inquire about a shooting permit to harass geese.	Goose Shooting Permit Pyrotechnics Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
April	Geese lay eggs in early April and begin incubating the eggs in late April. Non-breeding geese are still in flocks.	Keep records of where each nest is located. Contact Division of Wildlife to inquire about a nest destruction permit. Harass non-breeding geese off of your property.	Goose Shooting Permit (non-breeding geese only) Nest Destruction Permit Pyrotechnics Fencing
May	Most goose eggs begin to hatch. Flocks of non-breeding geese may still be in area.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Family groups may be "herded" off of your property. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto your property. As crops begin to emerge, watch closely for new geese to show up. Harass any geese that can fly off the field(s) immediately when they show up.	Goose Shooting Permit (non-breeding geese only) Fencing Roundup Permit
June	Geese begin molting their feathers and are unable to fly.	Continue to herd the adult and young geese off of your property. As crops begin to emerge, watch closely for new geese to show up. Harass them off the field(s) immediately when they show up. Contact Division of Wildlife in early June to inquire about a roundup permit.	Goose Shooting Permit (non-breeding geese only) Fencing Roundup Permit
July	Adult and young geese are able to fly around mid-July. Resident geese continue to form flocks.	Continue to harass geese off of your property. If you have young geese, they will soon be able to fly and when they do begin EXTENSIVE harassment. As crops begin to emerge, watch closely for new geese to show up. Harass them off the field(s) immediately when they show up.	Goose Shooting Permit Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Pyrotechnics
August	Resident geese are in flocks.	Report results of goose damage permits at: www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/Goose/login.aspx by Sep. 1. All goose damage permits expire August 31. Continue to harass geese off of your property.	Goose Shooting Permit Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Dogs
September	Resident geese are in flocks.	Early goose season is from September 1-15. Use hunting to discourage geese from your property. Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
October	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Goose hunting season usually starts in mid-October. Use hunting to discourage geese from your property. Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Chemicals (if used)
November	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
December	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices



GENERAL GOOSE HARASSMENT GUIDELINES

This sheet is designed to help the landowner, corporation, or organization alleviate problems associated with Canada geese. **The key to solving the problem is to make your property less attractive to Canada geese, and to utilize scare tactics immediately when geese show up.** Rounding up Canada geese and destroying their nests and eggs are **NOT** effective long-term solutions and will only be authorized as a last resort. Please go to our website (www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict) or call the nearest Division of Wildlife District Office listed on this guide if you have additional questions or are in need of further assistance.



CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Pre-nesting Season - Winter/Spring (December - March):

- 1) **Allow and encourage hunting of geese during legal seasons!** Where legal and safe, hunting is strongly recommended.
- 2) Stop **ALL** feeding immediately.
- 3) Stop pond aeration to allow ponds to freeze, forcing geese to relocate.
- 4) Stop fertilizing grass areas. Fertilized grass is more nutritious and attractive to geese.
- 5) Install a barrier at least 18 inches tall around the entire lake or pond perimeter. Tightly stretched wire strands or fencing works best. Fishing line is often ineffective for this purpose.
- 6) Use scare devices (dogs, shell crackers, mylar flagging, propane cannons, balloons spaced 5 per acre) to deter potential nesting geese on the property.
- 7) Place a stainless steel wire (14 ga.) grid spaced at five foot intervals one foot or so above the surface of ponds. You must have a fairly constant water level. This works well for non-recreational ponds where aesthetics are a concern.
- 8) Keep or make pond banks steep: maintain at least a one foot drop to the water level.

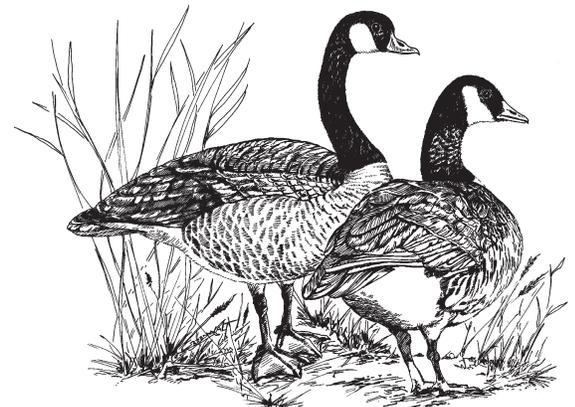
Nesting Season - Nests present on the property (March - May):

Eggs and nests of geese are protected by federal law and may not be disturbed or destroyed without authorization. A permit is not required to merely scare, repel, or herd geese, provided no attempt is made to confine the birds or destroy their nests. Nest/egg destruction will only provide temporary relief, and is **NOT** a successful long-term solution. If the site is not made less attractive, adult geese will only return to nest on your property next year, or other geese will take their place.

A permit from the Division of Wildlife is **REQUIRED** to destroy nests and eggs, and all permit conditions must be adhered to. However, this permit will only be authorized as a last resort when scare techniques have proven ineffective. Nest/egg destruction can be performed (at the landowner's expense) by the landowner, a landowner-designated agent, or by a private pest control operator.

Long Term:

Allow and encourage hunting of geese during legal seasons! Where legal and safe, hunting is strongly recommended to remove geese from the local population, and discourage their return. Ohio's Early Canada goose season, which is held in September, is an especially effective time to hunt local geese. **Constant harassment, habitat alterations, and hunting** are the most effective long-term solutions to reduce goose problems. Continue to make your property unattractive to geese by following and implementing the above guidelines.



GOOSE HARASSMENT SUPPLIES

Most companies offer a variety of products.

- **BIRD-B-GONE**

(800) 392-6915 • www.birdbgone.com

- **Birdbusters**

(886) 915-8225 • www.birdbusters.com

- **Bird-X, Inc.**

(800) 662-5021 • www.bird-x.com

- **Margo Supplies, Ltd.**

(888) 652-1199 • www.margosupplies.com

- **Reed-Joseph International Co.**

(800) 647-5554 • www.reedjoseph.com

- **Sutton Ag Enterprises, Inc.**

(866) 280-6229 • www.suttonag.com

- **Wildlife Control Technology, Inc.**

(800) 235-0262 • www.wildlife-control.com

LIQUID SPRAY REPELLANTS

- **Goose Chase (Methyl Anthranilate)**

300 N. Elizabeth St., Chicago, IL 60607 • www.bird-x.com

- **RejeX-iT (Methyl Anthranilate)**

PO Box 6015 Fort Wayne, IN 46896 (866) 532-4737 • www.rejexit.com

- **Flight Control (Anthraquinone)**

(877) 554-3373 www.flightcontrol.com

DOGS

- **Varmit Guard - Jared Miller**

(614) 794-8169

Services provided statewide.

- **A-1 Wildlife Removal** (614) 231-4667

Services provided in Dublin area

- **Martin Lodge** (440) 236-5353

Services provided in southwestern Cuyahoga County area

- **Ohio Geese Control - Jeff Hower**

(216) 228-4822 or (216) 403-9370

E-mail: jeff@ohiogeesecontrol.com Services provided in Cleveland/Akron area.

- **Greg Miller Animal Control - Steve Suder**

(440) 232-2964

Services provided in Cleveland/Akron area.

- **All Creatures Big and Small - Paul Badgett**

(330) 499-7074

Services provided in the Stark County area.

- **Geese-B-Gone**

(859) 240-7727

Services provided in southwestern Ohio.

- **Wild Geese Control - Michelle Hegedis**

(440) 679-8828

Services provided in Lake, Geauga, and Cuyahoga counties.

- **Geese Management Services, LLC - Stan Custer**

(513) 604-4035 www.geesemanagementservices.com

Services provided in Cincinnati and Dayton

- **Go Geese Go - Pat Lee**

(614) 841-4663 • pat_lee@gogeesego.com •

www.gogeesego.com Services provided in Columbus area to 15 miles beyond I-270.

- **GooseBusters - Judi Wilkinson**

(330) 715-0497 • goosebusters@aol.com

Services provided in Summit County area.

- **Duck Duck Goose Wildlife Control**

(614) 604-3023

Services provided in Columbus area.

- **The Goosebuster-Mark Dormire**

(937) 239-5324, (937) 414-0167

email: thegoosebuster@yahoo.com www.thegoosebuster.com;
Services provided in Dayton/Cincinnati/Columbus.

- **Advanced Wildlife Management - Chris O'banion**

(937) 750-8727

Services provided in Dayton/Cincinnati.

This list is presented as a courtesy to the public. The Division of Wildlife does not endorse any of the vendors listed above.

Please contact these offices should you need technical assistance or additional information.

CONTACTS

ODNR Division of Wildlife:

Central Ohio

Division of Wildlife D-1

Wildlife Management
1500 Dublin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 644-3925

Southeast Ohio

Division of Wildlife D-4

Wildlife Management
360 East State St.
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-9930

www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict

Northwest Ohio

Division of Wildlife D-2

Wildlife Management
952 Lima Ave.
Findlay, OH 45840
(419) 424-5000

Southwest Ohio

Division of Wildlife D-5

Wildlife Management
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 372-9261

Northeast Ohio

Division of Wildlife D-3

Wildlife Management
912 Portage Lakes Dr.
Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2293



Publication 5408 (R1/15)
An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/H
wildohio.com

Goose Deterrent Options

Cost and Evaluation Summary

(**Costs are approximate**)

Deterrent	Cost to landowner	Pros	Cons
Hunting	No to little cost	Provides recreation; hunters will hunt your property for free	Not feasible in urban areas; only useful in fall and winter
VISUAL DEVICES			
Signs	Variable depending on type of sign	In operation 24 hours a day; can relay information about geese including local laws	People may not respect signs; possible maintenance & vandalism issues
Mylar	\$0.005 - \$0.05 per foot	Easy to hang; moves in wind	Must be moved often to remain effective; aesthetics
Balloons	\$10 each; need several	Moves in the wind	Must be moved weekly to remain effective; aesthetics
Decoys-Owls, dead goose, coyote	\$20-1000 each	Something new in the environment may cause geese to temporarily abandon area	Geese habituate to it quickly if not moved; some may attract geese
Mechanical Scarecrows	\$0-1,100	Constant movement; can be used with motion sensor	Must be moved at least once per month to be effective
PHYSICAL BARRIERS			
Monofilament	\$0.007 per foot	Contours to landscape easily	Breaks down in sunlight; geese can break it; cuts easily
Stainless Steel Wire	\$0.05 per foot	Durable; minimal maintenance, contours to landscape	Aesthetics
Weed Eater Line	\$0.19 per foot	Lasts longer than monofilament; contours to landscape	Aesthetics – line is colored
Phillystran	\$0.49 per foot	No stretch or sagging	More visible than monofilament or stainless steel wire
Snow Fence	\$0.51 per foot	Easy to set up, long lasting	Aesthetics
Vinyl Fence	\$0.54 per foot	Easy to set up, long lasting	High Maintenance
MECHANICAL HARASSMENT DEVICES			
ScareCrow sprinkler	\$90	Easy to use; has motion sensor	May need multiple sprinklers to cover area; may use a lot of water if animals are not deterred by sprinkler
Distress Call System	\$200 - \$700	Easy to use; can be set on a timer	Geese can habituate to it; noise may affect neighbors
Propane Cannon	\$325	Very loud; can be set on timer and left in field	Very loud for neighbors; must be moved before geese habituate
Laser	\$150 - \$7,000	Very effective at night roosting areas	Only effective at dawn, dusk, and night
Turf Repliants	\$1,000/ac	Landowners can apply; good for new grass	Costs more if hire applicator; reapply after mowing

HABITAT MODIFICATION		
Letting Vegetation Grow	No cost	Creates a natural looking barrier
Plantings	Cost varies	Can enhance landscaping; easy to install; can stabilize a bank
Rip-Rap	Cost varies	Helps stabilize bank
Sea Wall	Cost varies	Looks nice; stabilizes a pond/lake bank
PYROTECHNICS		
Screamer Siren	\$0.45 per shot	Do not need ATF permit; no shotgun needed
Bird Banger, Shell Crackers	\$0.48 per shot; \$1.25 per shot	can project over the geese
CHASING		
Human	Low cost	Very low cost, good exercise; don't need to rely on contractor to chase geese
Dogs	Cost varies	Dogs do the running; dogs will go into the water
Mute Swans	\$350 - \$500 per swan	None
		Can look unkempt; geese may push through the barrier; not effective in winter
		Maintenance involved with plants; vegetation can have no openings between plants
		Geese will walk over small rip-rap
		Usually works best when coupled with a horizontal fence
		Need launcher; noise may affect neighbors
		Both need ATF permit; bird banger needs launcher and shellcrackers need shotgun
		Chasing needs to be done consistently and persistently
		Added cost if hired out; dogs can't catch geese; needs to be done consistently and persistently
		Rarely chase geese off; will attack people; swan feces is worse than goose feces

Permit Options

Only available after harassment techniques have been used during that year

Permit	When Issued	Pros	Cons
Nest Destruction Permit	When geese are on a nest March 11-May	Doesn't allow geese to hatch on your property	Goslings may walk in from other properties
Roundup Permit	When geese are flightless mid-June-early July	Eliminates geese from your property	Geese may not be on the property on the day of the roundup; may be expensive
Shooting Permit	March 11 – August 31	Reinforce harassment	Not a population reduction tool; not allowed in cities