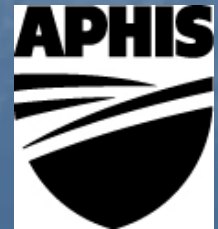


Resident Canada Goose Damage Management

Willy Wenner
Wildlife Biologist

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Pennsylvania



Mission of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services



Wikimedia.org

Provide federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist.

NWRC is the research arm of Wildlife Services, dedicated to finding solutions to wildlife damage management issues associated with:

- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Property
- Human health and safety



www.tc.gc.ca

Different types of Canada geese in PA.

- Migratory- typically present in the state from October 1st through March 31st.
 - Breed in extreme northern U.S. and Canada
- Resident
 - Any Canada goose that breeds in PA or is found in the state from April 1st through September 30th.

Resident Canada Geese

- Approximately 1.1 million in the Atlantic Flyway
- Higher reproductive rates
- Higher survival rates
- Breed at a younger age
- More geese than any other time in history
- Residents outnumber or rival migrants in each of the flyways

Laws concerning Canada geese

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (federal).
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the agency responsible for management of all migratory birds.
 - Hunting season framework.
 - Migratory bird depredation permits.
- State laws are consistent with federal laws.

What is the Concern?

- Threats to Human Health and Safety
- Natural Resource Destruction
- Property Damage

Human Health & Safety

- Disease
 - Potential for the spread of bacteria and parasites.
 - Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, E. coli.
- Avian Influenza
- Aggressive during the breeding season



Goose droppings and water quality

- An adult goose produces 1-2 lbs. of feces everyday, and defecates approximately 25 times a day
- Goose droppings contain excess nutrients, and large amounts of droppings can lead to reduced water quality, closure of swimming areas, and excessive algal growth.

Property Damage

- Fecal accumulation:
Lawns, beaches,
pathways, docks,
athletic fields
- Aesthetics
- Degradation of
vegetation



Natural Resources

Overgrazing of natural vegetation

- Soil erosion along shoreline
- Loss of native flora
- Sedimentation
- Loss of Recreation Opportunities



Categories of work that can be conducted to manage damage.

- Changing cultural practices
- Habitat modification
- Behavioral modification
- Population management

Changing Cultural Practices

- Stop feeding activities



Changing cultural practices

- Remove domestic or feral species of waterfowl



Habitat Modification

- Place exclosures around ponds to prevent access.
- Plant less desirable species
- Plant or place natural barriers
- Grass management
 - Let grass grow tall wherever possible.
 - Preferably 6 – 10 inches, mow grass before seed development takes place.







Behavioral Modification

- Place visual deterrents
 - Scarecrows, Mylar flags, or eyespot balloons.
 - Place at a density of 1 for every 2 acres.
 - Locate randomly.
 - Relocate often, or birds will become habituated.
 - More effective when used with other management techniques.



Behavioral Modification

- Non-lethal Harassment - No permit is needed.
 - Physical actions - chasing
 - Electronic devices
 - Pyrotechnics - simulates hunting
 - Dog - mimics an actual predator



Population Management



- Nest and egg treatment – Registration and Reporting required
 - Controlling reproduction prevents population increase.
 - Canada goose nest and egg registration web site:
<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>

Population Management



- Nest and egg treatment – Registration and Reporting required
 - Spray all eggs in nest every 7-10 days with food grade corn oil
 - Remove nest and eggs >28 days after last egg was laid

Population Management

- Population reduction - Permit required
 - When other methods do not reduce damage to acceptable levels
 - Depredation permits
 - Goose roundups.



Population Management

- Recreational Hunting
 - Whenever safe and legal, especially during resident goose season (September).



General Recommendations

- Use an integrated approach
 - Use all possible management types.
 - Patience and Persistence.
 - Community involvement.



Thank you – Any questions?

