



# Got Nuisance Waterfowl?

*Techniques for Problem Solving*





# CANADA GEESE

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

# Residents verses Migrants

2-3 years	<i>First breeding age</i>	4-5 years
5-7	<i>Clutch size</i>	3-5
High	<i>Nest success</i>	Variable
>90%	<i>Adult survival</i>	70-90%
Short	<i>Migration</i>	Medium
50-100 days	<i>Hunting exposure</i>	120 days
Increasing	<i>Population trends</i>	Fluctuates

# NESTING BIOLOGY



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

# GEESE ARE GRAZERS

Prefer :

- Fertilized grass
- Grass < 6 inches tall
- Kentucky bluegrass
- Open fields with few or no trees and shrubs
- Near water





# MORTALITY

Canada Geese can live up to 20 or more years!

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



# BAG OF TRICKS

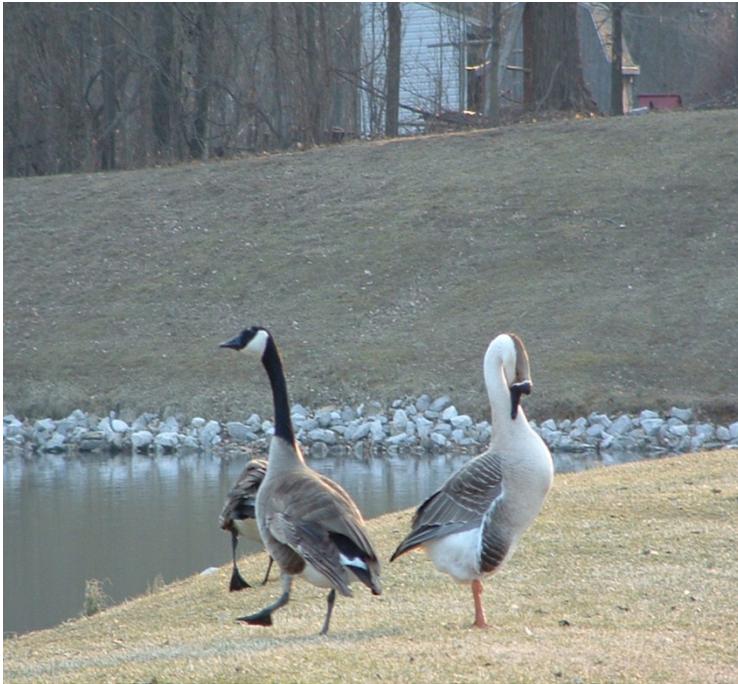


- No simple solution
- Methods work better when combined
- Be persistent

A photograph of a park in winter. The ground is covered in snow, and there are bare trees in the background. A wooden bench is visible to the left of the sign. A yellow bollard is in the foreground, with a rope tied around it. The sign is the central focus, with white text on a red background.

**STOP**  
FEEDING THE  
DUCKS AND GEESE  
IT'S PROHIBITED  
STRICTLY  
ENFORCED

# DON'T ALLOW DOMESTICS



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

# HABITAT MODIFICATION

- INITIAL EXPENSE
- LONG TERM CONTROL
- REDUCE ATTRACTIVENESS TO GEESE





# VEGETATIVE BARRIERS



























# ROCK BARRIERS

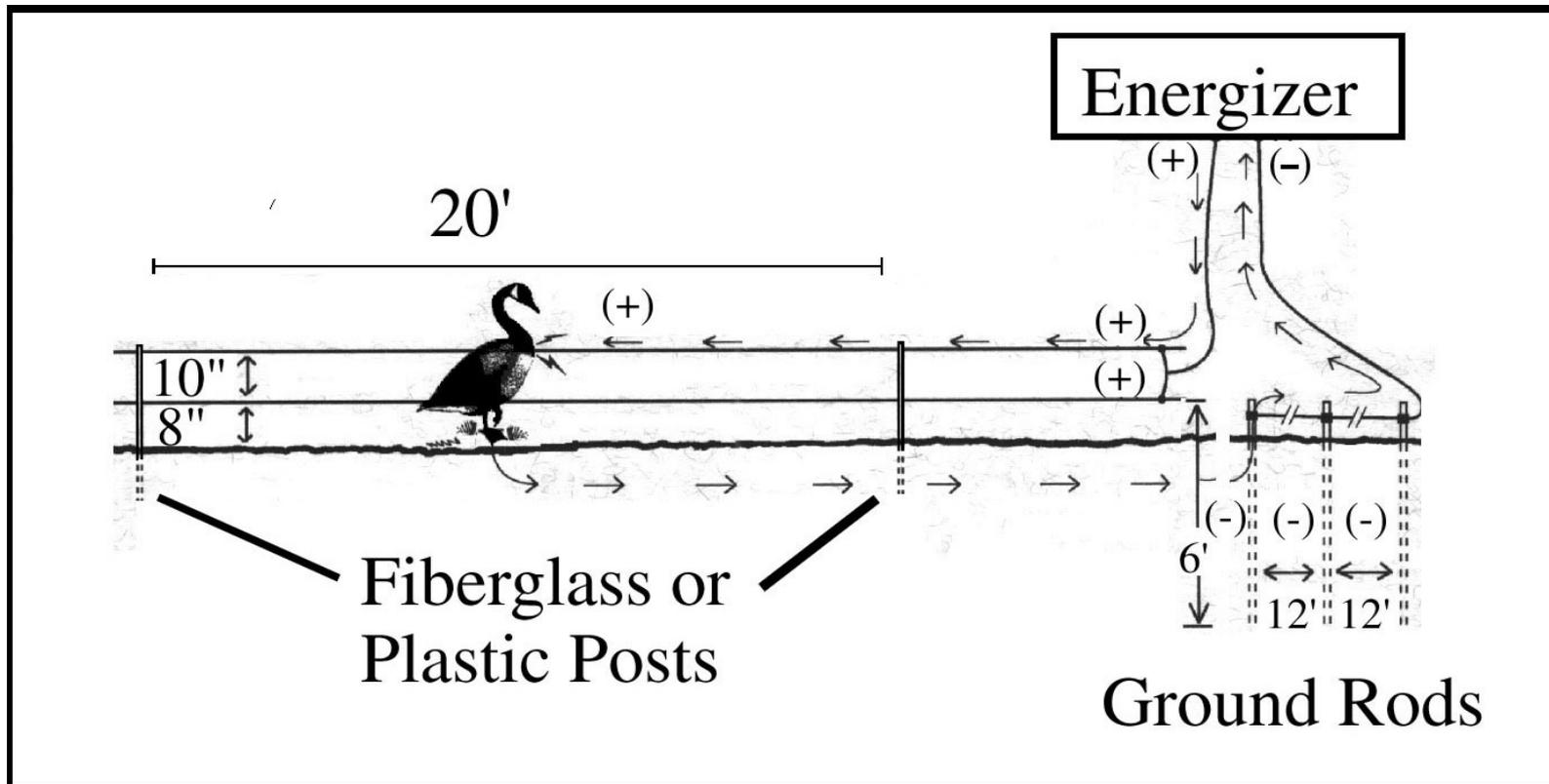






# FENCE BARRIERS











# ELIMINATE ISLANDS & PENINSULAS





# TURN FOUNTAINS OFF IN WINTER





# HARASSMENT

- **SHORT TERM**
- **NON-LETHAL**
- **NO PERMIT REQUIRED**
- **USE REPETITIVELY**
- **EFFECTIVE WHEN USED WITH OTHER TOOLS**

# NOISE MAKING DEVICES



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



# VISUAL DEVICES

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





















# CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

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



# NEST DESTRUCTION

- ✓ Very effective in reducing population
- ✓ Some methods are 95-100% effective
- ✓ Supported by wildlife agencies
- ✓ Supported by animal welfare agencies
- ✓ Satisfies the goose's nesting instinct





<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSl.aspx>  
**or [www.wildlife.in.gov](http://www.wildlife.in.gov)**



# NEST LOCATION



Nests often within 150' of water

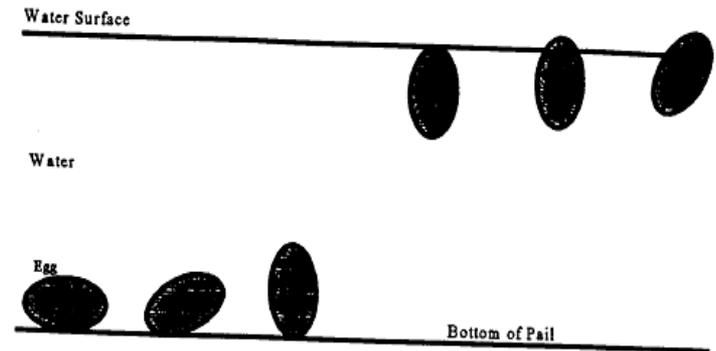
- Islands and peninsulas
- Muskrat houses
- Under shrubs
- Base of mature trees
- Landscaping in urban areas
- Anywhere that offers some concealment

# PREVENT RE-NESTING

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



Pail of Water



Flotation Stage	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
Age of embryo in days	0-3	4-8	9-13	14-18	19-23	24-27
Waiting period (days) before removing eggs	15	10	5	0	0	0

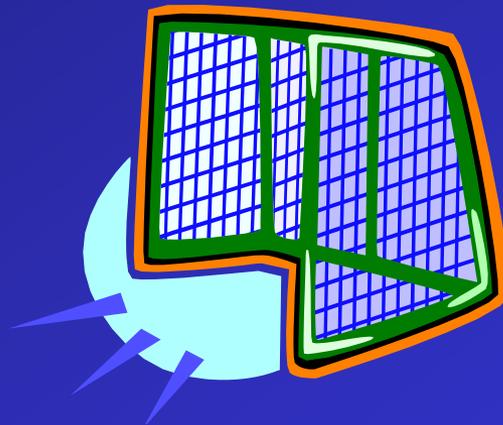
[www.wildlife.IN.gov](http://www.wildlife.IN.gov)



# TRAPPING

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

**Relocation**



**Euthanasia**





# RELOCATED GEESE

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



# EUTHANIZED GEESE

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

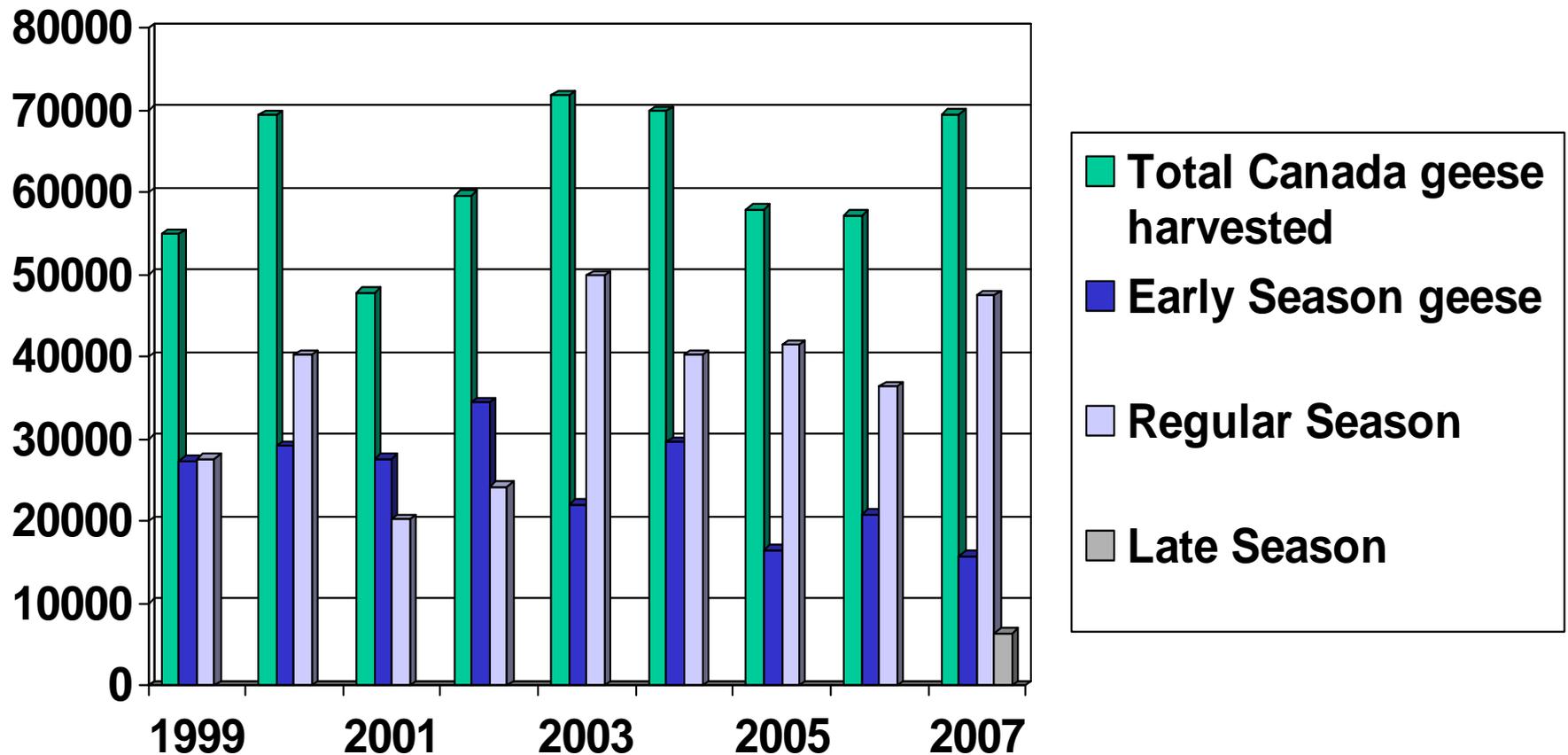


# HUNTING

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



# PRELIMINARY HARVEST #



# HEALTH & SAFETY PERMIT



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



# AG DEPREDATION PERMIT





# CONCLUSION

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

**IF YOU BUILD THE HABITAT THE  
WATERFOWL WILL COME!**



# ANY QUESTIONS?

**For more Information contact:**

**DNR Customer Service**

**1-317-232-4200**

**or**

**Your Local District Biologist**

**<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2716.htm>**