



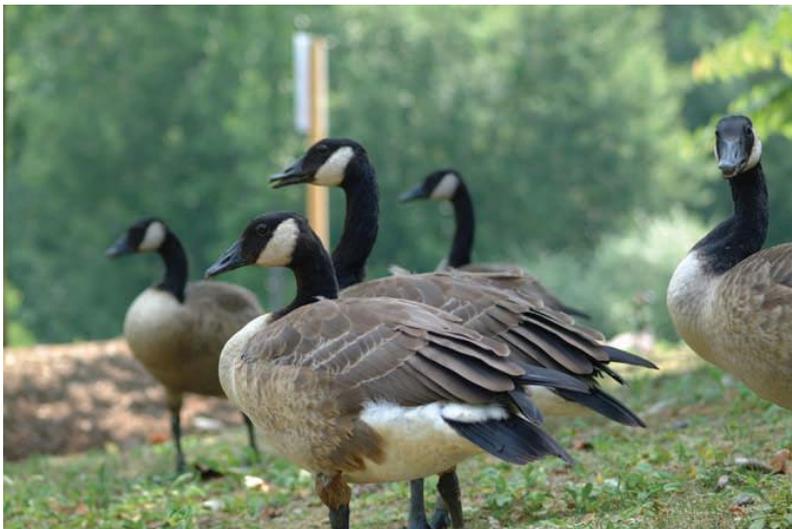
Finding Peace with Canada Geese

Webinar Overview

Humane techniques for solving conflicts with Canada Geese are the most effective tools for living with our wild neighbors in suburban and urban communities. This webinar analyzes the nesting patterns and flight schedules of Canada geese, confronts common myths, and gives great tips on how communities can work together to humanely control large populations of geese throughout the year.

Did You Know?

In the 1960s, wildlife managers bred Canada geese in captivity after a drastic population decline from hunting and loss of habitat. They were then relocated throughout the U.S. In the 1980s, a new phenomenon of “too many” geese became problematic.



Why Canada Geese Flock to Our Communities

- Geese molt (completely replace their flight feathers) each summer, and therefore cannot fly for a six week period. This leaves them stuck on land.
- Geese love freshly cut lawns, especially those near ponds or open bodies of water where they can easily escape predators.
- Community intervention starts too late in the year, typically when the geese cannot physically fly.

Methods that *DO* Work

- **Egg Addling:** Eggs can be humanely addled by oiling, removing from the nest, or replacing with dummy eggs.
- **Site Aversion:** Before geese become strongly attached to a site, condition them by harassing or scaring them away to show that your property is undesirable. Trained dogs can put geese in flight, causing them to leave an area entirely.
- **Habitat Modification:** Reduce food and nesting areas. Replace grass with plantings or materials, allow grass to “naturalize,” end or reduce fertilizer and water to prevent young grass shoots.

Methods that *DON'T* Work

- **Mute Swans:** Placing mute swans in ponds and nearby bodies of water - They end up becoming nuisances themselves!
- **Decoys:** Decoy coyotes and other animals, ultrasonics, balloons, flags, etc. are commonly used and easily accessible. However, geese are smart! They learn quickly that these things are not threats to them.
- **Eradicating:** Destroying large populations of geese by shooting, gassing, etc. Killing these animals is inhumane and not a sustainable solution.

Fences and hedges are also great tools to use if vegetation growth is not an option.

Don't feed the birds!

As you and your children are enjoying your local park, please keep in mind that feeding bread to geese can cause serious digestive problems in these birds. The result is “angel wing,” making it impossible for a goose to fly away. Moreover, conditioned feeding and providing shelter on your property can make geese gather quicker and stay longer.



Remember!

There is no quick fix to solving human-geese conflicts. United States federal law protects Canada geese. It is illegal to harm the geese, their eggs, or their nests without permission from the U.S. Fish and Wild Service. The Humane Society of the United States also objects to killing wild animals simply because they are seen as a nuisance. Please review your local and state laws for controlling the goose population near you.

Additional Resources

Sign up for the **Egg Addling course** coming in early 2016 on how to humanely addle geese eggs. Presented by the Humane Society Academy.
http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/humane-society-academy/?credit=web_vanity_academy

The Humane Society of the United States offers additional quick tips on dealing with Canada geese in the following two links.
http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/geese/tips/solving_problems_canada_geese.html

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/geese/tips/canada_geese_habitat.html

Geese Peace™ gives helpful documents and videos to supplement the Geese Peace program. <http://www.geesepeace.org>

Learn more about the nature of Canada geese from the **U.S. Fish and Wild Service**.
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Modoc/wildlife_and_habitat/CanadaGeese.html

Lyndsey White Dasher, Director of Humane Wildlife Conflict Resolution – The Humane Society of the United States
lwhite@humanesociety.org