ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

January 23, 2020

Dear Canada goose depredation permittee,

Enclosed is your Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) permit for the destruction of Canada goose nests and eggs issued under the authority of the Illinois Administrative Code [17 Ill Adm Code Ch I Sec 525] and applicable Federal regulations. You must follow all of the provisions on your permit. In addition, please note the following:

1) You are required to submit a report of your activities on the report form on the back of this letter to me at the below address by **September 1, 2020**. Please retain a copy for your records. If you do not perform any activities under this permit this year, you must still submit a report reflecting that no nest or eggs were destroyed. On the report form, please also provide an update of the non-lethal goose control techniques you are using in the space provided. If you do not submit a report, you will not be issued a permit next year.

2) This permit only authorizes you to destroy the nests and eggs of Canada geese on property under your agencies' jurisdiction.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact me below.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Williams, Urban Waterfowl Project Manager
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns Rd.
Bartlett, IL 60103
(847) 608-3177
E-mail: ben.williams@illinois.gov

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANADA GOOSE EGG AND NEST DESTRUCTION

In order to minimize adverse impacts of Canada Geese in urban environments, it is sometimes recommended that population increases be controlled by preventing successful nesting attempts.

Small residential flocks of Canada Geese can increase rapidly if on-site production is not controlled. Canada geese normally produce an average of 4 - 6 goslings with excellent survival capabilities. Geese have an affinity for the site where they were hatched and fledged. Upon reaching sexual maturity, Canada geese will usually attempt to nest at the site or in the vicinity of where they learned to fly. Though competition for nesting sites may prevent or delay their reproductive efforts, their continued utilization of the site is likely. Large flocks can develop from the annual reproductive efforts of just a few pair.

The eggs and nests of Canada Geese are protected by federal and state regulations. Their destruction is illegal except as authorized by permit. The object of the permit is to allow you to control the population of Canada Geese on your property by preventing reproduction. This can be accomplished by rendering the eggs non-productive and at the same time, preventing re-nesting attempts.

The following instructions are provided for individuals or institutions holding valid permits to destroy the eggs and nests of Canada Geese in most conflict situations. However, if the problem involves a pair of geese that are overly aggressive towards humans, the eggs should be removed, the nest destroyed, and an object such as a traffic cone or box should be placed over the nesting site. The geese should then be continually harassed until they leave the site. In this situation the goal is to solve the problem quickly and get the geese to move on. The geese will likely re-nest, but hopefully in a location where they will not cause a conflict. If the geese continue to stay in the vicinity and be aggressive towards humans, then contact USDA-Wildlife Services (217) 241-6700 for additional options. For all other goose conflict situations, use the following instructions:

The permittee is directed to render the eggs non-productive at the earliest possible stage of embryo development. The initiation of incubation can occur at any time between early March and early May. Most years, this activity peaks during mid-March to mid-April. An indication that nesting has commenced is the presence of a single bird at a location formerly occupied by a bonded pair. **Your permit does not authorize the possession of the eggs by you or by others. They are to be disposed of by burial after removal from the nest.**

Canada geese can be very aggressive towards humans when their nest is threatened. Although not equipped with beak capable of serious injury, their bite can feel like a hard pinch. The birds can also use their wing or body to deliver a heavy blow or use their claws to scratch. Nest visitations might best be accomplished by two persons, one to work with the eggs, and the other to ward off attacks. The person standing guard might carry an object (ie. a boat oar, broom, garbage can lid, etc.). There should be no need to strike the bird; merely hold the object between yourself and the bird to prevent physical contact. **You are not permitted to strike or injure the geese.**

1. The first step is to locate the nest. Canada goose nests are not usually hard to find. They are normally constructed in open view and in close proximity to water. Nests are often positioned on an elevated site, such as a muskrat house, dike, or hummock. Sometimes they are located in the edges of brushy areas. Islands are highly preferred nesting sites.

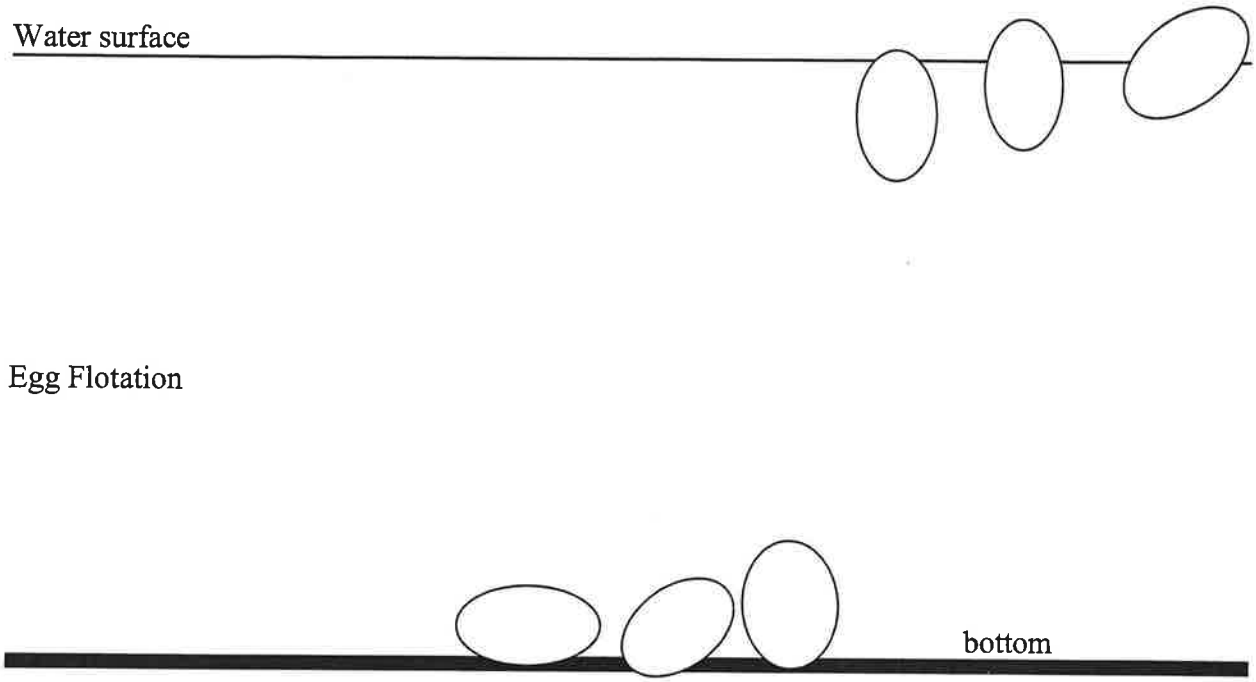
Canada Geese are very aggressive towards other geese when defending their nesting territory, which includes the nesting site and an associated peripheral area. Both birds will participate in territorial defense by attacking intruders. When not under attack, non-breeders may be observed in small flocks, away from the defended territory. Usually the repeated presence of one bird in a general area indicates that there may be a nest hidden nearby. Small ponds normally support only one nesting pair while large bodies of water may contain the territories of several pairs. Observations during late February and early March should produce a reliable estimate of the number of pairs that will attempt to nest. In many urban situations, the birds utilizing water areas at one location are produced on the property owned by another. While it is possible to get a permit to destroy nests on the property owned by another, the permission of the landowner is required. It is the responsibility of the permittee to obtain that permission.

2. Once the nest is located, the objective is to prevent a successful hatching. This can be accomplished by rendering the eggs non-productive in a manner that will prevent a re-nesting attempt. Canada geese will generally not attempt to re-nest if they have been incubating for more than three weeks. Therefore, it is necessary to know the age of the embryo (i.e., the number of days the egg has been incubated.) When eggs feel cool, incubation has not begun, and the clutch may not be complete. Take no action. Wait a few days and visit the nest again. When the eggs feel warm, incubation has begun and the embryo can be aged by the flotation method. Place one egg in standing water. Any available water will do, even that contained in a bucket or pail, provided the water is deeper than the length of the egg. Reference the following chart to determine the age of the embryo.

3. If the eggs are in flotation stage 1 through 4, the goose has not incubated for the period required to prevent a re-nesting attempt. The eggs should be rendered non-productive by vigorously shaking (for at least 60 seconds) or by completely coating them with corn oil (see attached info sheet, "Egg Oil: An Avian Population Control Tool") and should be replaced in the nest. If these non-productive eggs are not later removed from the nest, the goose will continue to incubate them for an inordinate period of time. Therefore, it is necessary to return at a later date to terminate the incubation effort by removing the eggs and destroying the nest. The attached chart specifies the waiting period for returning to the nest for egg removal and nest destruction.

If the eggs are in flotation stage 5 or 6, incubation has progressed for more than two weeks. Remove the eggs and destroy the nest. The embryos may be destroyed by freezing. Eggs that are in flotation stage 6 may be on the verge of hatching, and one or more of the eggs in this stage may be pipped (chick has broken the shell). If pipping has occurred, you are **not authorized to destroy any eggs in the nest or the nest itself.**

AGING CANADA GOOSE EMBRYOS
Flotation Method



Flotation Stage	1	2	3	4	5	6
Approximate Embryo age in days	0-3	4-8	9-13	14-18	19-23	24-27
Waiting period (days) prior to egg removal and nest destruction	20	15	10	5	0	0

For further information, contact:

Ben Williams, Urban Waterfowl Project Manager
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns Rd.
Bartlett, IL 60103
(847) 608-3177
or
USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
3430 Constitution Dr., Ste. 121
Springfield, IL 62711-9411
(217) 241-6700

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One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
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JB Pritzker, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

Nuisance Wildlife Control Permit
Type: Class E
Valid: March 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020

Approved by:	Benjamin R. Williams	Date:	1/23/20
Benjamin R. Williams, Urban Waterfowl Project Manager			

Name:	**Rick Hersemann**				
Affiliation:	**U.S. Department of Energy**				
Address:	**P.O. Box 2000**				
City:	**Batavia**	State:	**IL**	Zip Code:	**60510**
Phone:	**630-840-2239**				
Email:	**rick.hersemann@science.doe.gov**				

Non-employee Agent authorized to perform control activities:

Conditions:

1. Permittee is authorized to destroy Canada goose nests and eggs only on property under the jurisdiction of the agency. No control activities may be conducted on Federal and/or State land without written permission from the agency with jurisdiction.
2. Canada goose egg destruction will be carried out by Addling, Oiling, Puncturing or Freezing. No Poison of any kind will be used.
3. Canada goose eggs must be disposed of by burial or incineration in an incinerator that is in compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Act. No parts of the animals may be used, sold, or utilized in any manner.
4. No other wildlife may be taken or harmed in any manner.
5. You are required to submit a record of the nests and eggs destroyed and their disposition by **September 1, 2020.** You must also retain a copy for your records.
6. All authorized persons engaged in Canada goose nest and egg destruction must have a copy of this permit in their possession.
7. The property owner or occupant on whose premises Canada Goose nest and egg control activities are taking place must allow, at all reasonable times, including during actual operations, free and unrestricted access to any U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent or refuge officer, or Illinois Conservation Police Officer on the premises where they are, or were conducting activities.
8. All applicable local laws pertaining to Canada goose nest and egg destruction must be followed.
9. Permittee is not an employee of the Department of Natural Resources.
10. Permittee is restricted to taking **7** Canada goose nests and all of the eggs in those nests in In aggregate on all lands under said agencies' jurisdiction.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding sources's cival rights office and/or the Equal Opportunity Office, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TYY 217/782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.

NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL PERMITTEE CLASS E – CANADA GOOSE NEST AND EGG DESTRUCION ANNUAL REPORT FORM

As required by Illinois Administrative Code [17 Ill. Adm. Code CH. I, SEC 525.30q], you must submit an annual report of your activities on or before **September 1 of 2020** for nest and egg destruction activities conducted for 2020. Please use this form and mail or fax it to the address below. Failure to submit an annual report shall prevent you from obtaining a Nuisance Wildlife Control Permit for 2021. If you wish to renew your permit for next year, please check the box below. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	**Rick Hersemann**
Affiliation:	**U.S. Department of Energy**
Address:	**P.O. Box 2000**
City:	**Batavia** State: **IL** Zip Code: **60510**
Phone:	**630-840-2239**
Email:	**rick.hersemann@science.doe.gov**
County:	**Kane**

Site Name	No. of Canada Goose Nests Affected (Destroyed)	No. of Canada Goose Eggs Destroyed

Signed: _____ Date: _____

☐ I wish to renew my Canada Goose Nest and Egg Destruction Permit for ____nests next year.

☐ I do not wish to renew my Canada Goose Nest and Egg Destruction Permit.

Please submit completed forms to: Benjamin Williams, Urban Waterfowl Project Manager
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns Rd.
Bartlett, IL 60103
Phone: (847) 608-3177or by
Fax: 847-608-3109, or by
E-mail: ben.williams@illinois.gov

Please update the non-lethal goose control techniques you have used:

☐ Stopped Feeding ☐ Flags, Tape ☐ Overhead Grids ☐ Chemical repelant

☐ Chase Dogs ☐ Eye Spots ☐ Barrier Plantings ☐ Egg Destruction

☐ Noisemakers ☐ Fencing ☐ Pond Modification ☐ Hunting Program

Other:_____