



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

December 28, 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, 2021**. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Benjamin Williams'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin Williams, Urban Waterfowl Project Manager
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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.

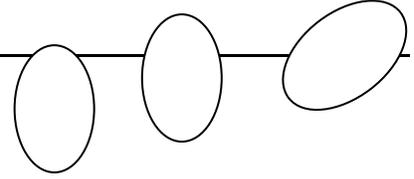
2. Once the nest is located, the objective is to prevent a successful hatching. This can be accomplished by rendering the eggs non-productive in a manner that will prevent a re-nesting attempt. Canada geese will generally not attempt to re-nest if they have been incubating for more than three weeks. 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.

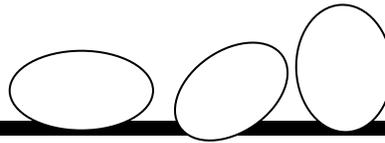
If the eggs are in flotation stage 5 or 6, incubation has progressed for more than two weeks. Remove the eggs and destroy the nest. The embryos may be destroyed by freezing. Eggs that are in flotation stage 6 may be on the verge of hatching, and one or more of the eggs in this stage may be pipped (chick 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

Water surface



Egg Flotation



bottom

| 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:

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or
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