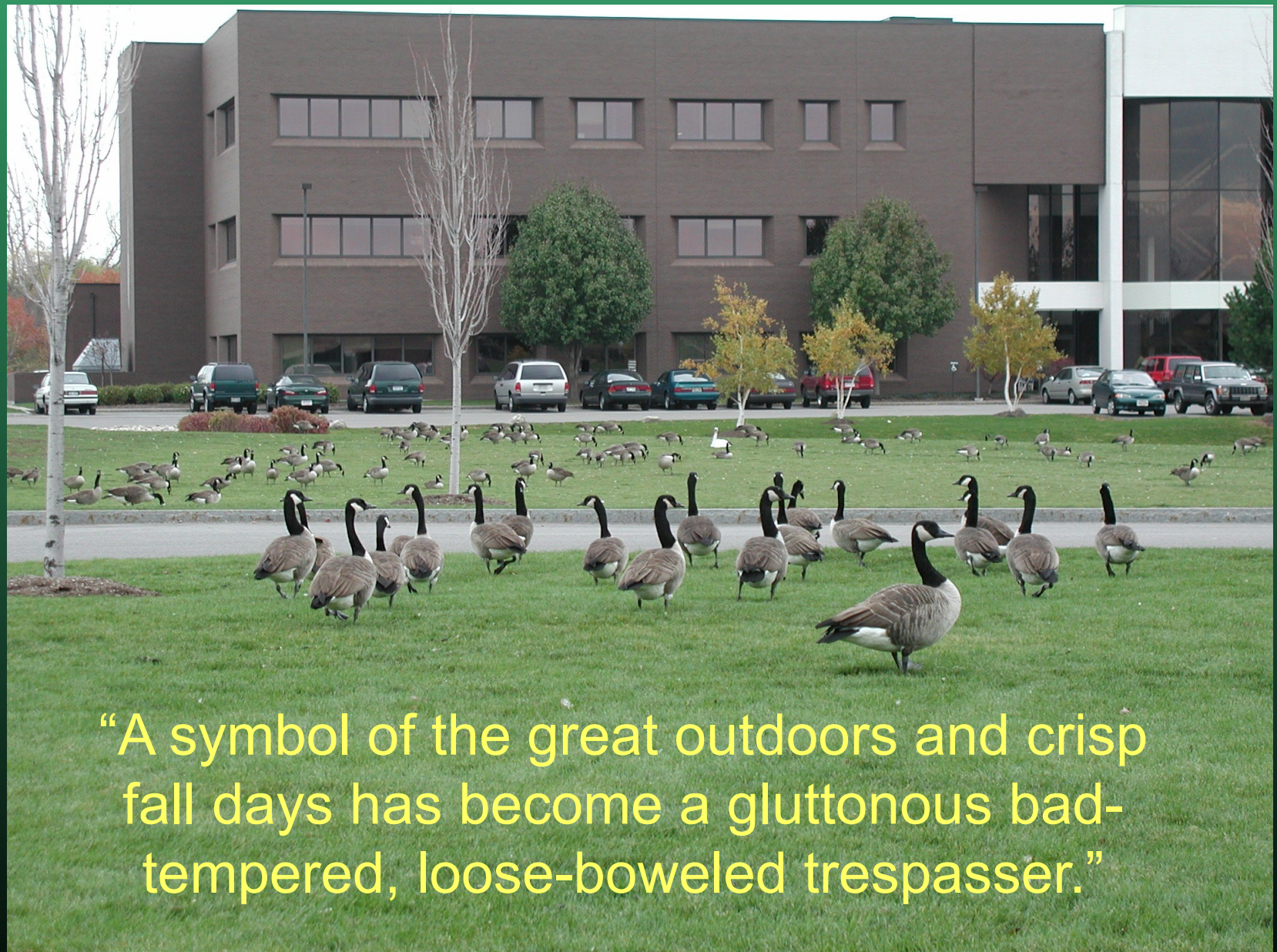


Problem Management of Canada Geese in a Suburban Township.

Jim Eckler, Bureau of Wildlife, Region 8, Avon



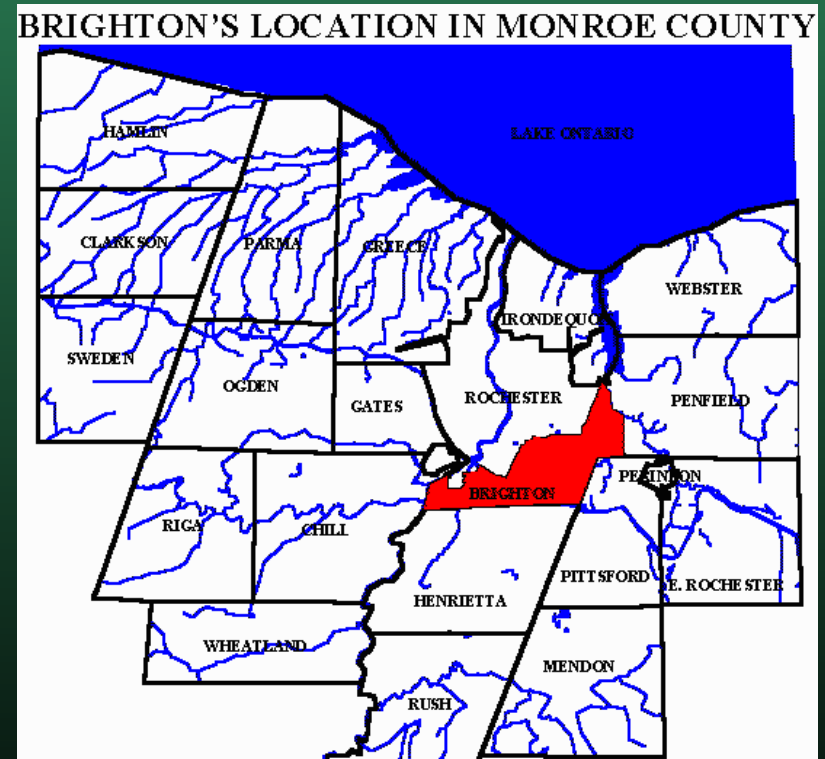


“A symbol of the great outdoors and crisp fall days has become a gluttonous bad-tempered, loose-boweled trespasser.”



Town of Brighton

- 15.6 square miles
- 35,000 residents
- 1/4 park/open space
- Gun discharge ordinance
- 300 geese



Tow



NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation
Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources





Meridian Center

Complaints

- Traffic risks
- School playground, fields
- Over grazing lawns
- Slippery sidewalks
- Aggressive nesters



Public Meeting



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

- Objective-based
- Identified problems and sites
- Recommended 4-points of action
- Timeline
- Evaluation



Abatement Techniques

- No Feeding
- Encourage Hunting
- Modify Habitat
- Wire or line Grids
- Fencing
- Remote Control vehicles
- Laser
- Sterilization
- Noisemakers
- Repellents
- Dogs
- Egg Oiling
- Capture and remove
- Decoys – swans, alligators
- Fountains



Abatement Techniques

- **No Feeding**
- Encourage Hunting
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- Sterilization
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- Repellents
- **Dogs**
- **Egg Oiling**
- Capture and remove
- Decoys – swans, alligators
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Plan did not include:

- Pyrotechnics
- Flagging/balloons
- Removal of domestic geese
- True fence
- Hunting/Round-up



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

- **Site alteration**
 - Monofilament fence
 - Plantings
- **No feeding**
 - Signs
 - Ordinance
 - Direct contact



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Egg oiling

- Followed HSUS protocol
- FWS and DEC permits (now website registration), landowner permission
- Training: 10-12 college students, Zoo, Town Animal Control and task force members
 - How-to
 - Equipment: corn oil, umbrella, waders, data sheets, ID cards



CAGO Timeline – Brighton, NY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mating												
Ice off												
Nesting												
Egg oiling												
Egg removal												
Goslings												
Molt												

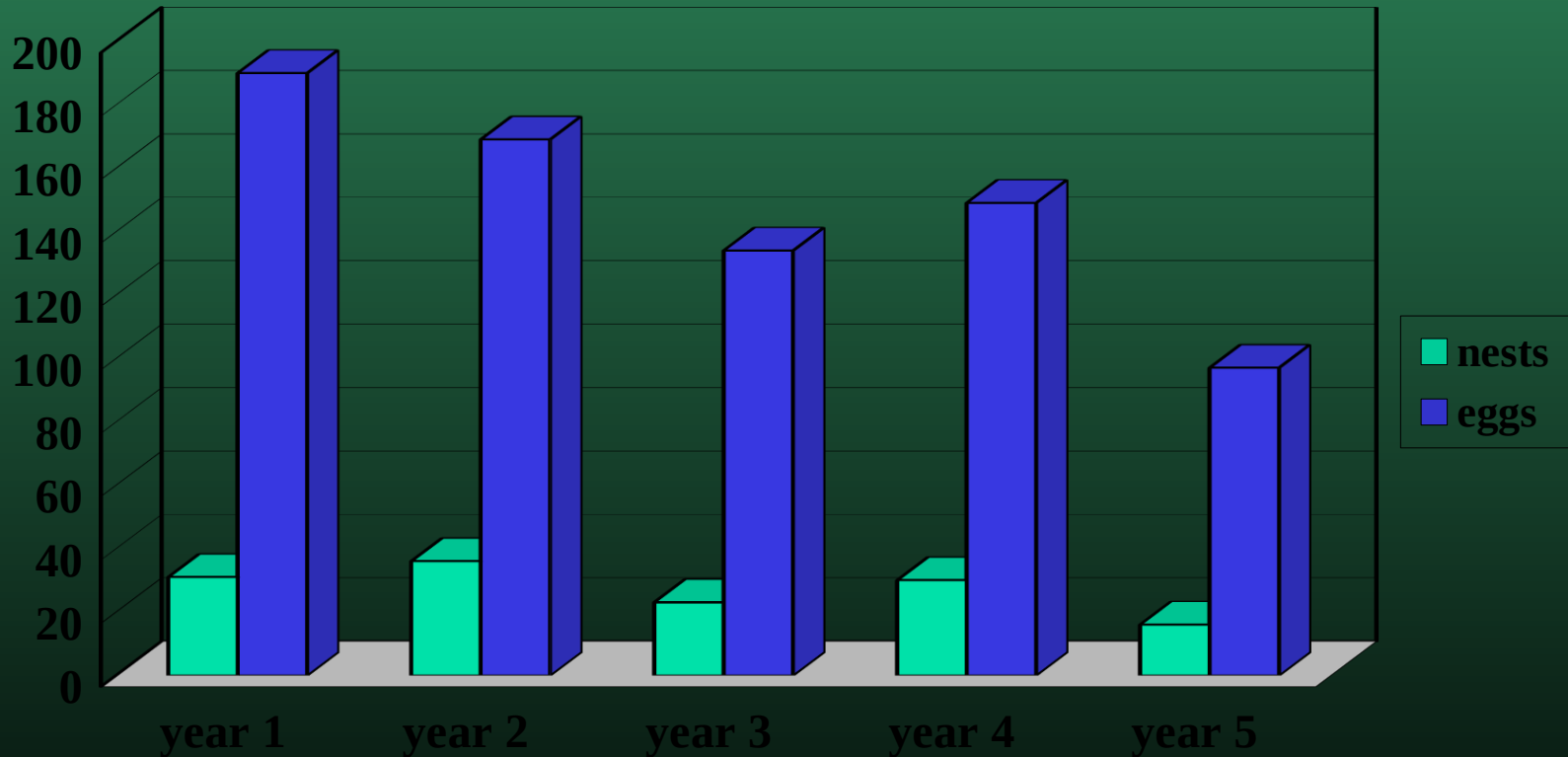


Egg oiling results – Year 1

- Treated 31 nests
- 190 eggs
- 100 person-hours
- 70% decrease in goslings at Lac de Ville



Egg Oiling Results



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Herding dogs

- 3 sites
- 1 or 2 visits/day
- 6 months



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Development guidelines

- Rocky shoreline
- Landscaped



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Measure and Evaluate

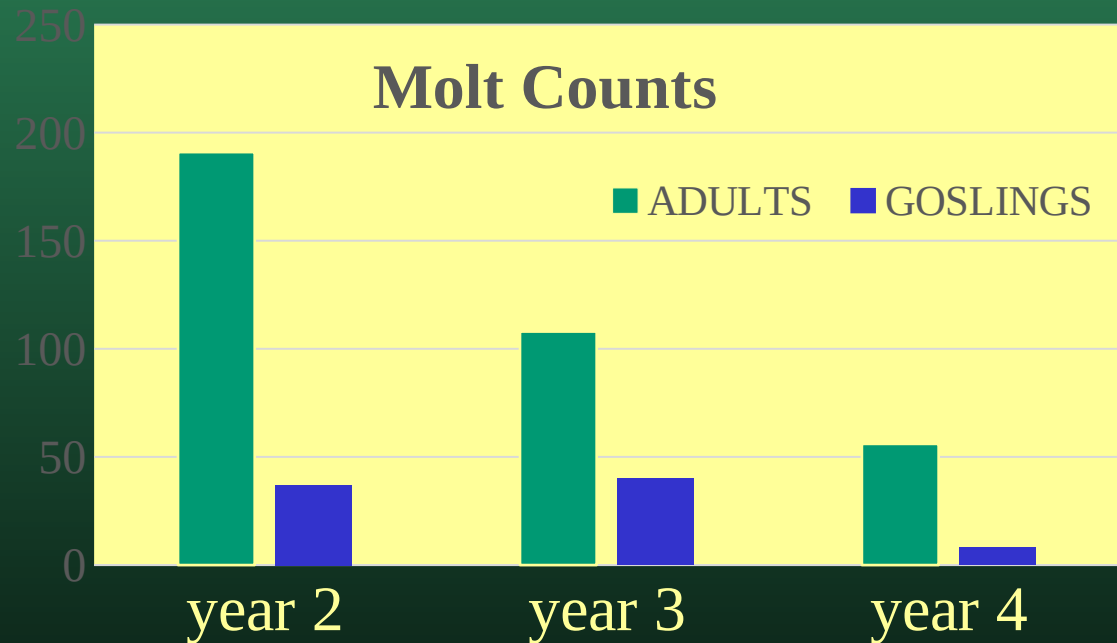
- Complaints
- Qualitative site assessments
- Nests and eggs
- Student research
 - Hazing techniques
 - Banding
 - Telemetry



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Monitor numbers

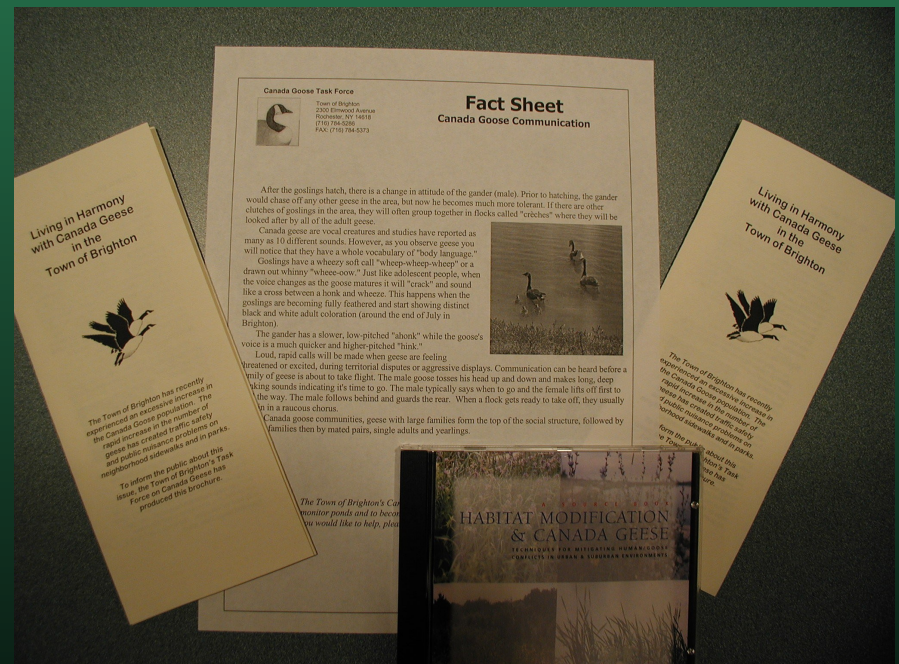
- Volunteers
- Molt counts (geese, goslings):
- Year 2 – 191, 37
- Year 3 – 108, 40
- Year 4 – 56, 8



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Public outreach

- Informational brochure - CD
- Fact sheet
- Town meetings
- Video
- Cable access TV





Canada geese on Lac de Ville Boulevard in Brighton take command of the road, to the consternation of drivers.

Lac de Ville geese problem worsens

By Matt Lengua

BRIGHTON — Town officials are on a wild goose chase. Hundreds of Canada geese that congregate near a retention pond along Lac de Ville Boulevard are harassing motorists who share the highway to avoid hitting the birds and are annoying neighbors who live in the area.

It's a perennial problem that has gotten worse this year. The droppings are everywhere, and the geese are causing more power-line problems, said Jim Vigneri, Brighton's manager.

"It's a nuisance," he said. "I don't want to see them on the road, but they are beautiful birds, and they are causing major problems."

He said the geese are causing more power-line problems, and he said the geese are causing more power-line problems.



Down, wilder, jaggier and bolder are forced to share Brighton's beloved Lac de Ville Boulevard with geese.

neighbored year-round, and the power service public safety and health hazards, town officials said.

"They are beautiful birds, but they are causing major problems," said Jim Vigneri, Brighton's manager.

"It's a nuisance," he said. "I don't want to see them on the road, but they are beautiful birds, and they are causing major problems."

Brighton geese ruffle feathers

■ Town officials head off flap over soaring population by adding eggs.

By Matt Lengua

They were spraying in Brighton yesterday, but it had nothing to do with coloring Easter eggs.

Canada geese — widely revered for its resistance to large numbers — are under fire in Brighton, where town officials began a program to control the goose population.

Animal control officers caused Brighton Town Park and certain neighborhoods to begin a process called egg adding, which involves spraying goose eggs with corn oil to prevent the embryos from developing.

Town officials said it is a humane way of solving a perennial problem that has gotten worse as more and more geese migrate.

"We hope to strike a balance between the positive attributes that the geese bring to our community and the negative impacts associated with excessive numbers of geese," said Brighton Town Board member Jim



Jim Eckler, a state Bureau of Wildlife biologist, adds corn oil over eggs of Canada geese.

They were spraying in Brighton yesterday, but it had nothing to do with coloring Easter eggs.

Canada geese — widely revered for its resistance to large numbers — are under fire in Brighton, where town officials began a program to control the goose population.

TOWNS & VILLAGES

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Brighton geese cause squawk

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2000 3B

TOWNS & VILLAGES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2000 3B

Brighton to shoo Canada geese

It's rare that someone would get sick from this, but it's certainly not a good problem to have, Chipman said.

So what can Brighton do? Here are some options:

■ The Town Board could pass a law prohibiting residents from feeding the geese, discouraging the animals from staying.

■ Strobes lights and noise makers could be used to scare the birds away.

■ The town highway department could erect a temporary fence between the pond and the road, keeping the birds out of traffic.

More drastic measures — capturing and killing the birds or deterring their nests — require state and federal permits, Canada geese are protected.

Permits can take up to three months to obtain, Chipman said.

"We get calls about nuisance problems all the time," Chipman said.

Geese droppings carry bacteria and other organisms. The resident population

tion officer Jim Eckler and Brighton animal control officer Bruce Blackman led a contingent of media and interested observers to a nest site in the Barclay Square housing development to demonstrate the adding process.

The nest is situated at the edge of a pond in the development. When Eckler and Blackman approached the nest, the female was sitting atop the nest, while the male was swimming guard in the pond.

To add the eggs, Blackman first had to scare the female off the nest. He did this by running at her until she left the nest. Neither geese attacked Eckler or Blackman, Eckler then began the process of

adding the eggs. It itself is very simple: took a few minutes. First, he marked permanent marker. This is so we can miss any eggs return to the nest.

Then he sprayed a few drops of corn oil onto the nest. "What the corn oil does is prevent the embryo in the egg so it doesn't develop."

Once all the eggs were returned to the nest, he said, to insure the geese still need eggs are viable. If

See GENESE

"A study was done where 50 pairs were tagged," said Blackman. "The town's geese are tagged. They are added and then they are dropped."

What the study Blackman said, was pairs of geese being tagged.

The town expects and adds eggs at

time that if we remove the eggs, the geese will not lay another clutch."

The reason the eggs are eventually removed is to prevent the geese from spending too much energy caring for the eggs and letting their health suffer unnecessarily.

"The goal isn't goose eradication," Eckler said. "It's goose stabilization."

While some geese may stay in the town, it's hoped that

Continued from page 1A

were simply removed to prevent the geese from spending too much energy caring for the eggs and letting their health suffer unnecessarily.

"It's important to give the geese a sense of investment in the eggs," Eckler said. "We

where two weeks to remove

hand and chase birds away from town property and parks."

Blackman, who lives in Brighton's Barclay Square housing development, said the geese population first became a community-wide issue last summer when hundreds of Canada geese

they're done our job."

Michelle Grosse, whose home is in Barclay Square, borders the retention pond, supports the egg adding process.

Her back yard is frequented by geese.

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Identify the Challenge

- Who has a problem and where?
- Property ownership
- Land use and habitat type
- Numbers of adults and goslings
- Seasonality
- Any public feeding?
- Local tolerance for abatement methods, including lethal control
- Human resources



Important



- Understand Goose behavior/biology
- Apply site specific solutions
- Write up a Plan
- Involve everyone,
Tell everyone,
Measure everything



Thank You

- Jim Eckler
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