

# Resident Canada Goose Regulations



**U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service**

“Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

**Oneida Lake Association  
Central Square, NY  
March 25, 2017**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management



# Objectives:

- Background Info & Population Trends
- Regulatory Authority and Permits
- New Regulations
- Recommendations for Integrated Management



# Background Info & Population Trends:

- Resident Canada geese are defined as:
  - Those *nesting* in the lower 48 states during March, April, May or June, and *residing* within the lower 48 states during April, May, June, July and August.
- Atlantic Flyway Population
  - Increasing at a rate of ~ 14% per year in the 1990's and early 2000's.
  - Atlantic Flyway goal is to reduce the population to 700,000 by 2020, distributed in accordance with levels prescribed by individual states and provinces.



# Why is the Resident Canada Goose Population Increasing?

- Stable habitat/environmental conditions
- Abundant food resources allow geese to maintain greater body condition
- Higher reproductive rates (nest at younger ages, larger clutch sizes, longer nesting season)
- Long-lived (higher survival rate)
- Fewer natural predators (nest & gosling predation)
- Limited/non-existent hunting pressure in residential/urban areas



# Regulatory Authority & Permits:

- Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
  - Migratory birds are protected under four bilateral migratory bird treaties that the U.S. entered into with Great Britain (for Canada in 1916 as amended in 1999), the United Mexican States (1936 as amended in 1972 and 1999), Japan (1972 as amended in 1974), and the Soviet Union (1978).
  - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to determine when, to what extent, and by what means of allowing hunting, killing, and other forms of taking of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs is compatible with the conventions.



# Regulatory Authority & Permits:

- Control activities
  - Federal and State responsibilities are involved with resident Canada goose control activities.
  - All control activities, except those intended to scare geese or preclude them from using a specific area, such as harassment, habitat management, or repellents require a federal permit issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
  - Permits to alleviate migratory bird depredations are issued in coordination with USDA Wildlife Services, the Federal agency with the lead responsibility for reducing human/wildlife conflicts.



# Regulations Added in 2005:

## Purpose:

- To allow State wildlife management agencies, municipalities and the affected public sufficient flexibility to deal with problems caused by resident Canada geese.
- Guide and direct resident Canada goose population growth and management activities when traditional measures are unsuccessful in preventing injury to property, agricultural crops, public health and other interests.



# Specific Control and Depredation Orders

- 1) Airport Control Order,
- 2) Nest and Egg Depredation Order,
- 3) Agricultural Depredation Order, and
- 4) Public Health Control Order

  

- Targeted to address goose depredation, damage and conflict management
- Any or all of the strategies can be implemented, depending on State authorizations



# What are Depredation & Control Orders?

- Depredation and control orders provide regulatory authorization under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) to conduct specific migratory bird depredation management activities without the need for individual Federal permits.
- Nest and Egg D.O. is available online, free registration (annually)
- State permits/authorizations may still be required



# Specific Control and Depredation Orders

## Airport Control Order

- Authorizes airports and military airfields to establish and implement a program that includes indirect and/or direct population control strategies
- Control activities authorized between April 1 and September 15; destruction of nests & eggs between March 1 and June 30.
- Management actions may occur within 3-miles of the airport boundary, with landowner permission.
- Registration not required, but any control activities must be reported by October 31.
- Intent of program is to significantly reduce resident goose populations at airports.



# Specific Control and Depredation Orders

## Nest and Egg Depredation Order

- Registration authorizes municipalities, landowners and homeowners associations to destroy nests and eggs on property under their jurisdiction without a permit, provided they have landowner permission
- Control activities authorized between March 1 and June 30.
- Web-based registration and reporting (by October 31).
- Intent of program is to help stabilize local breeding populations.



# Nest and Egg Depredation Order

## Who may operate under this DO?

- Municipalities
- Landowners
- Homeowner's Associations
- Businesses, Corporations, Agencies
- Public Land Managers
- Agents for the above



# Nest and Egg Depredation Order

## Homeowner's Associations

- May register properties/members as a group
- Landowner written permission necessary before the work is conducted
- Landowner permission not required for common property



# Nest and Egg Depredation Order

## What methods are allowed?

- Eggs may be shaken, punctured, replaced or oiled (using 100% corn oil)
- Nests may be destroyed or removed and disposed
- May not keep or sell eggs or nests



# Nest and Egg Depredation Order

## What are the reporting requirements?

- Same website as registration
- Everyone registered must report by October 31
- Only need numbers of nests and month taken
- Report required even if no take has occurred
- Cannot re-register for future years without reporting



# Specific Control and Depredation Orders

## Agricultural Depredation Order

- Authorizes States to allow landowners, operators, and tenants actively engaged in commercial agriculture to conduct control strategies on geese depredating agricultural crops.
- Management actions must occur on premises.
- Restricted to Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways
- Control activities authorized between May 1 and August 31; destruction of nests & eggs from March 1 to June 30.



# Specific Control and Depredation Orders

## Public Health Control Order

- Authorizes States to conduct control strategies on geese posing a direct threat to human health.
- Direct threat is when a Federal, State, or local health agency recommends removal of geese that they have determined poses a specific, immediate human health threat.
- For states authorizing the Public Health Control Order (n = 2), activities may be conducted between April 1 and August 31 within the specified area of the direct threat.



## Management Recommendations:

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