

Resident Canada Geese

(See Native Waterfowl section for migratory Canada geese)

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) defines resident Canada geese as those that nest in the lower 48 states and the District of Columbia in the months of March, April, May or June or reside in the lower 48 state and the District of Columbia in the months of April, May, June, July or August. Though resident Canada geese are non-migratory, they are still managed by the USFWS as migratory waterfowl.

What kind of damage is caused by resident geese? Flocks of geese can cause damage to agricultural fields and lawns from foraging. In residential areas, geese become nuisances through accumulation of feces, foraging on lawns, and acting aggressive while defending their nests.

Can a WCA write a depredation permit? Outside of an established hunting season, a federal permit must first be obtained for any migratory bird unless there is a federal depredation order specifying otherwise (see lethal options). The USDA Wildlife Services facilitates the procurement of federal depredation permits through the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, Georgia. Once the federal permit is received, a WCA can write the required state depredation permit.

Can Canada geese be relocated? No, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act it is illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird without a federal permit.

What can I do with sick or injured Canada geese? There are licensed wildlife [rehabilitators](#) across the state that can take in sick or injured birds. Advise the individual to leave the bird alone for 24 hours before contacting a rehabilitator to see if it can recover on its own. If the goose able to evade capture (swim or fly away), advise caller to leave the bird alone as repeat capture attempts may cause further damage.

Are there any safety concerns? No, however it is good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- Exclusion
 - During molt (usually June and July) geese cannot fly, and fencing can be effective at excluding them from an area.
- Harassment
 - Harassment and frightening techniques are most effective when the geese have just begun coming into the area.
 - Dogs, lasers, and loud noises can scare geese.
 - There are registered products that can be applied to lawns to deter geese. These products contain either methyl anthranilate or anthraquinone. Anthraquinone gives the geese stomach discomfort when they ingest the grass and methyl anthranilate, found naturally in grapes, acts as a taste deterrent. Products will need to be reapplied after it rains.

- Landscape modification
 - Geese prefer water bodies that are open, so they can see any predators approaching. Planting tall grasses or trees around these areas can be effective in deterring geese.
 - Using riprap or creating a steep slope will make the area less attractive, as geese prefer gradually sloping, grassy areas around water sources.

Lethal Options:

- Depredation order [50 CRF 21.50](#) allows private land owners, and managers of public lands, homeowners' associations, and local governments or the employees or agents of any of these persons or entities to destroy Canada goose nests.
 - Must be registered through FWS to be able to destroy any active nests. The regulations require a landowner to be registered before nests and eggs may be destroyed. If the land owner requests a third part to register on their behalf, it is between the land owner and the third party. The registration must be in the landowner's name and with the landowner's address. Must register each employee or agent working on the landowner's behalf. Can register for free at <https://epermits.fws.gov/ercgr>.
 - If a WCA is **only** destroying nests, they do not need to write a state depredation permit.
 - Method of destroying eggs include the following:
 - Eggs may be shaken, punctured, or oiled using 100% corn oil. Corn oil is exempted from regulation from the US EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
 - Egg and nest destruction, including but not limited to the removal and disposal of eggs and nest material
 - Nest and eggs may not be kept for personal use.
 - Nests can be removed any time of the year. Any nests that are destroyed must be reported by **October 31st**.
- For removal of birds, a state depredation permit is always required.
- Depredation order [50 CRD 21.51](#) allows a the State to implement programs that allow landowners, operator and tenants to conduct direct management actions such as nest destruction, trapping and culling, or other lethal or non-lethal strategies when resident Canada geese are causing depredations to an agricultural facility between **April 1st and August 31st**.
 - During this time, depredation permits causing agricultural damage can be obtained from a district biologist or, in districts 5 and 9, a wildlife enforcement officer. Outside of April 1st to August 31st, a federal depredation permit must be obtained. The USDA Wildlife Services facilitates the procurement of federal depredation permits through the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Geese can be taken during the established hunting season with proper licenses, certifications, and stamps.