

3) Eggs in flotation stages 1-3 have not been incubated long enough to prevent a re-nesting. **Do not remove the eggs from the nest at this time!** The eggs in stages 2 and 3 should be rendered non-productive by oiling. Revisit the site in 5 to 10 days to remove the eggs and nest material. Refer to the Flotation Chart for the proper waiting period.

4) When eggs are found in flotation stages 4, 5 & 6, the eggs and nest material should be removed immediately and disposed of. Eggs in flotation stage 6 may be on the verge of hatching. One or more eggs in the nest may be pipped (meaning the gosling is pecking through the eggshell).

If pipping has occurred, it is illegal to destroy any eggs in that nest. You must allow that entire nest to hatch.

5) The Egg Flotation Chart specifies the time period that should pass before returning to an unoiled nest to remove the eggs and nest material. Check your property several times per week for new nests, and re-visit all nests to check for any unoiled eggs (new unoiled eggs will not have a pencil mark on them). You may want to remove the eggs and nesting material, so you will be legally able to harass the adults from the area.

Why should I keep records?

Keep good records: nest locations, how many nests/eggs you have treated, what date you first visited a nest, what stage the nest was in, when the eggs need to be removed. This information will simplify the process in future years because geese often nest in the same area year after year. Also, some of this information will be required to file your summary report with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

How do I file my report?

You are required to report this information to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at <http://www.fws.gov/permits/mbpermits/gooseeggregistration/report.html> by **October 31**. Failure to file a report will limit your opportunity to conduct egg and nest destruction in the future.

For More Information



Contact the Nuisance Wildlife Information Hotline at 1-800-893-4116 or go online at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/hunt/geese



Urban Wildlife Biologist
553 East Miller Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401
Phone: 1-812-334-1137
Fax: 1-812-339-4807
swinks@dnr.in.gov

Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife

Managing Nuisance Canada Geese



Egg and Nest Destruction – Egg Oiling Method

Egg and Nest Destruction

Egg oiling and total nest removal are effective tools for reducing reproduction of Canada geese.

Canada geese are unlikely to re-nest if they have been incubating eggs for more than 2 weeks. To conduct an effective control program, this technique must be used properly. First, anyone conducting Canada geese nest and egg destruction must register online at <http://www.fws.gov/permits/mbpermits/gooseeggregistration.html> with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nesting is a natural instinct of all birds. If the eggs and nest are removed before the goose has satisfied this instinct, she will simply build another nest and lay additional eggs. A primary reason for using the egg oiling method is to allow room for error if you visit the nest at the wrong time. Oiling renders the eggs unproductive, and returning them to the nest fools the goose into satisfying its nesting instinct.

How does the corn oil work?

The application of food grade corn oil to eggs during the nesting season to prevent hatching is very effective. When applied to incubating eggs, it blocks the pores in the eggshells and asphyxiates the developing embryo. Nesting geese will generally continue incubation to the expected hatching date, preventing or reducing the potential for re-nesting.

Egg oiling is 95-100% effective

How do I apply the oil?

Food grade corn oil may be applied to incubating eggs by any means that allows about the same amount of oil to be applied to each egg without excessive contamination of the nest and surrounding area. Backpack or handheld sprayers can be used to spray the oil on the eggs. Eggs can be put directly in a small bucket containing the oil.



When do I apply the oil?

Monitor the breeding and nesting activity of birds targeted for treatment with oil. To be most effective, application of oil should be made between the fifth day after the goose lays her last egg in a clutch and at least 5 days before anticipated hatching. Treat all eggs in a nest at the same time.

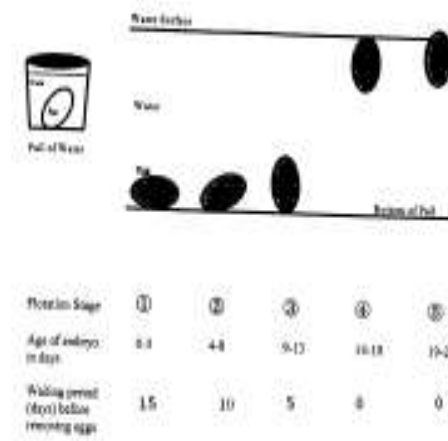
Be ready and take a friend!

Canada geese can be very aggressive towards humans when their nests are threatened, and they are capable of inflicting a serious blow with their wings and body. A boat oar, trash can lid, broom, or umbrella can be used as a shield against the bird. It is illegal to harm the bird, so merely hold the shield between the bird and yourself to prevent it from striking you. It is best to work in teams, but if you

can't, a dog on a leash is one of the best defenses when approaching a nest of aggressive geese - DO NOT allow the dog to attack the geese.

How can I tell the age of an egg?

For this method to be effective, it is important to know the number of days that the eggs have been incubated (i.e., the age of the embryo). If eggs feel cool to the touch, incubation has not begun and the clutch may not be completely laid. Such nests should be revisited in 7-10 days when the eggs will feel warm to the touch. At that time they may be aged using the Flotation Method:



1) Fill a bucket or pail with water to a depth of about 7 inches, as the egg must be able to float free of the bottom. Mark the egg with a pencil mark, and place it in the pail.

2) Observe the manner in which the egg floats and compare to the chart. It is usually necessary to check only 1 or 2 eggs from each nest.