



EASTERN CONNECTICUT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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For more information about the Baker Cove Non-migratory Canada Geese Project, contact Maura Robie at (860) 319-8807

Resident Canada Goose Facts

- Resident Canada Geese originated in CT in the 1920's through various human activities and have increased since the 1970's as the landscape has changed.
- Canada Geese are regulated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Canada Geese, like salmon, are hard-wired to return to where they were born to nest and rear their young.
- In CT, most resident Canada Geese in urban areas can live up to 15 years.
- Canada Geese tend to forage in areas with open sight lines and access to water so they can see and escape predators.
- Resident Canada Geese do not fly to Canada to nest and rear young, thus they are locally present year-round.
- Canada Geese lay an average of 6 eggs per nest, but nests with up to 11 eggs have been reported.
- Over 8 years, 2 mating pairs of resident Canada Geese and their off-spring can produce more than 108 Canada Geese, all hard-wired to nest locally.
- 1 Canada Goose can produce up to 2 pounds of fecal waste a day.
- A Canada Goose can eat up to 4 pounds of grass a day.



Why should I worry about the resident Canada Goose Population?

Water Quality

- Increased concentrations of geese and their droppings may contribute to beach and shellfishing closures due to high fecal bacteria counts.
- Nitrogen enrichment and depletion of oxygen in water bodies from geese droppings.
- Geese feeding on grass can strip ground cover leading to loss of soil and sedimentation of water bodies.
- Canada Goose droppings are a potential source of fecal coliform bacteria that can contribute to water quality issues and shellfish bed closures at Baker Cove in Groton and surrounding waters.

General Nuisance

- Both Canada Geese parents can be very aggressive when defending their nests and young goslings.
- Droppings on athletic fields, golf courses, walkways and other areas used by people.



"Angel Wing" occurs where excess public feeding

Public Health and Safety

- Increased risk of water-borne diseases, bacteria, viruses, and funguses to humans, especially young children on playgrounds where droppings are present.
- Increasing risk of aircraft/goose collisions. USAir flight 1549 landed in the Hudson River in January 2009 after colliding with a flock of geese.
- Increased risk of motor vehicle/goose collisions when geese try to cross roads or forage on roadsides.

What are some of the management options & what can I do?

According to CT DEEP, any successful goose abatement program should include several different non-lethal techniques and to be successful in the long-term, needs to include some type of lethal removal.

Non-lethal Methods

- DO NOT FEED** waterfowl! Geese are wild birds that get the nutrients they need from grasses, so feeding them breads and crackers can cause malnutrition and dependence on humans.
- Modify goose behavior including:
 - Hazing/scaring** – noisemaking devices, visual deterrents/barriers, motorized vehicles, and trained dogs
 - Visual deterrents** – mylar tape, balloons, flags, and scarecrows
 - Chemical repellents** – topical treatments to grasses on small lawns that make it unpalatable to grazing geese
 - Habitat modification** – Installing fencing or an unmowed vegetative buffer between a waterbody and lawn or adding trees/shrubs in feeding area

Lethal Methods

- Targeting annual reproduction** through egg addling, oiling, or puncturing (online registration through USFWS)
 - * will halt population growth, only if greater than 80% of the nests are treated annually
- Reducing the number of breeding adults through:
 - Hunting** – limited in urban areas
 - Depredation permits** – (through USFWS) removal of 1-2 geese per day, up to the number allowed by the permit, serve as negative reinforcement to on-going hazing activities
 - Goose round-ups** – (done by USFWS, municipalities, homeowner associations) Geese are euthanized and the meat donated to soup kitchens and those in need