

Human–Goose Conflict

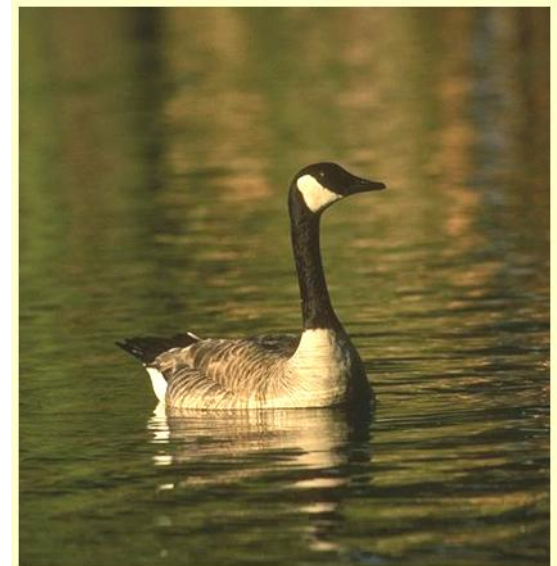


Ohio Division of Wildlife



History of Canada Geese in Ohio

- **Commercial hunting & egg collection**
 - Almost extirpated
- **Migratory Bird Treaty of Act of 1918**
 - “Protected Status”
- **Creation of “refuges” in Ohio**
 - 3 state-owned lands in 1956
 - Funded by : hunters
- **Breeding population in Ohio**
 - Currently exceeds 150,000



Adaptable

- **Adaptable in their choice of nesting habitats.**
 - Nesting sites are on the ground adjacent to a pond or lake
 - Small islands in lakes and rivers.
- **Maintain small territory around nests**
- **Males will aggressively defend.**

Breeding

- **These monogamous breeders**
 - Begin breeding the first weeks of March, and may continue as late as June in colder areas.
 - Incubation lasts 23–30 days.
 - Most clutches are laid before April 15 and the majority of young geese hatch before May 10.
 - Clutch sizes range from 2–9 eggs; 5 is average.
 - Young geese are flightless until 8–9 weeks, and the family groups normally remain intact into autumn.

**A pair of geese can, in 5 to 7 years, easily
become 50 to 100 birds**

Edward C. Cleary Assistant State Director
USDA – APHIS – Wildlife Services



Canada Goose Subspecies

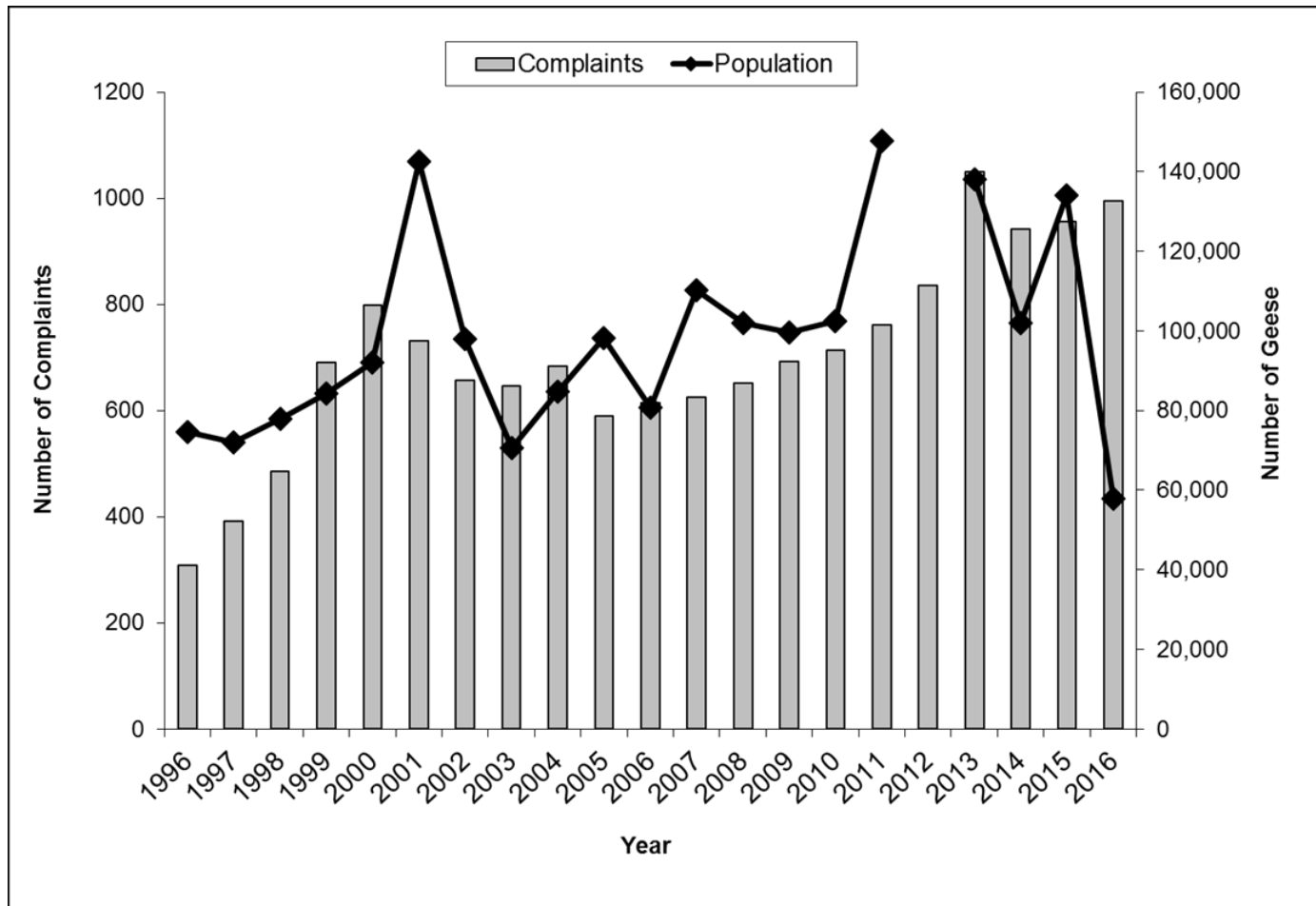
Giant Canada Goose

- Largest goose 12+ lbs.
- Very adaptable & prolific, long life-span
- Local migration
- Nests in urban & in rural areas
- Population is growing unchecked in urban areas.

Interior Canada Goose

- Medium-size goose; 8 to 9 lbs.
- Few young raised per year, short life-span
- Migrates from Canada to Southern United States
- Nests on the tundra
- Competes for food with giants & snow geese on tundra

Ohio Giant Canada Goose Breeding Population Estimate



“The Poop on Geese”

- A single goose can defecate every 20 minutes.
- An adult can produce up to 1.5 lbs of feces each day.



MMM, GOOD FRESH GOOSE POOP-
NATURE'S MOST PERFECT FOOD!!

Possible Public Health Concerns

- **Geese excrement contains a wide variety of pathogens capable of infecting humans known as zoonotic diseases.**
- **Geese can also be a means of transmitting (vector) other diseases in ways unrelated to their defecation.**
- **Geese may have a negative impact on water quality and disease transmission (Fallacara et al. 2001).**
- **“Transmission of disease or parasite from geese to humans has not been well documented, but the potential exists” (Smith et al. 1999).**
- **Caution:** The presence of a disease does not necessarily translate into a threat to public health.
- **Caution is advised as the research in this field continues to evolve.**

Adaptations to Humans



... or “Why would a goose want to live near humans?”

- Plenty of green grass & water!
- No predators: “We’re safe!”
- City laws declare “No Hunting”
- Lots of places to nest
- “People are afraid of us when we defend our nest”

DO NOT FEED GEESE!

Why Not?

- **Violent goose attacks in the spring! They do not maintain a fear of people!**
- **Poor nutrition, especially in juveniles. Geese are grazers!**
- **Very selfish activity; only the person feeding benefits.**

What is the Role of DOW?



Development of an Integrated Management Strategy

- **A single, quick-fix solution is unlikely to reduce goose problems; combine tactics.**
- **The public, employees, & neighbor relations are important components of success.**
- **Be aware of relevant laws and ordinances**
- **It IS possible to eliminate all geese at a given location with proper techniques.**
- **Wildlife Management programs strive for a reduction in goose numbers and related problems to a level all groups can tolerate.**

Important considerations in choosing management tactics include:

- Time(s) of the year when the problems occur
(See Harassment Techniques Timeline)
- Available control options given the biology of the geese and site characteristics.
- Probable effectiveness of the techniques.
- Acceptability, cost, & legality of control methods.
- Community support for taking action.

Canada Geese – Conflict Prevention

- **Habitat Modification –**
Pond design, allowing for taller vegetation to discourage goose use.
- **Barriers –**
Keeps geese out
- **Herding Dogs**
- **Pond Grid –**
Geese can't land or swim
- **Pyrotechnics**
- **Chemical Repellents**



Combine Tactics!

Goose Damage Permits

- **DOW issues three types of permits**
 - Nest Destruction Permit
 - Goose Shooting Permit
 - Roundup Permit

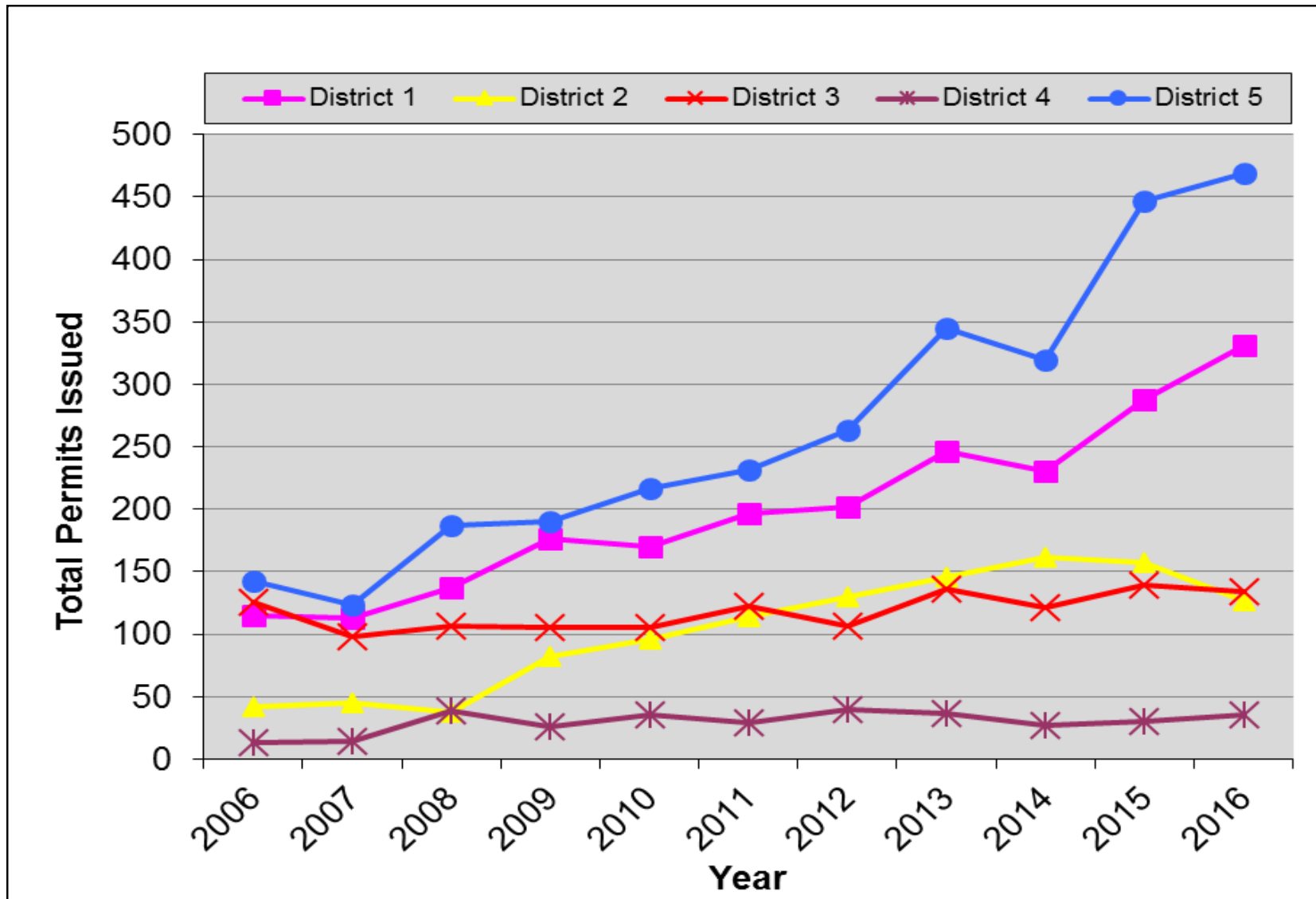


DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Egg/Nest/Attack Goose Destruction Permit



form is required:
R.C. Penalty: Imprisonment up to 6 months and/or \$1000.00
02 O.R.C. Penalty Imprisonment up to 60 days and/or

Permits - State



Non – Lethal Tactics



Habitat Modification

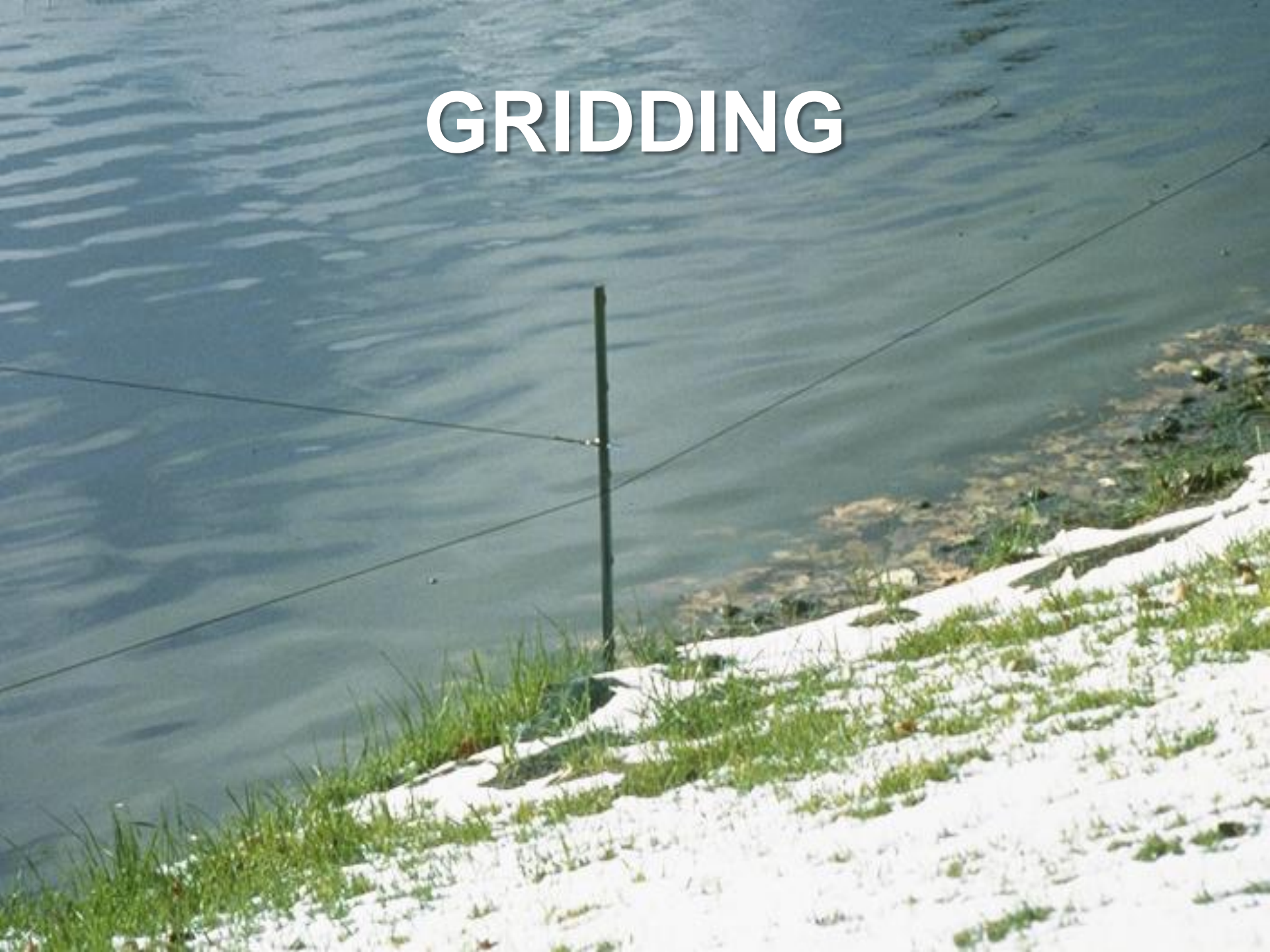
**Open Water in winter will attract geese.
If possible, do not run aerators or bubblers.**



BARRIERS



GRIDDING



Auditory Devices

These explosive tactics are used to frighten geese away from problem sites.



- Bird Bangers & Screammers
- Propane cannons & exploders
- Blanks
- Sirens, airhorns, & whistles



Visual Scare Devices



Laser Lights

- **Red** laser light works best right at dusk when geese are setting up to roost on pond
- **Green** laser lights work best during the day when geese are feeding.
- Shine light around their feet, not in their eyes.



DOGS



Effective Tactics

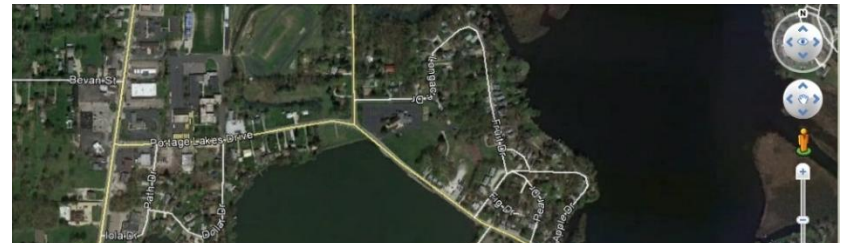
- Greater emphasis on harassment in the problem areas.
- **Primary concern = Lack of time to harass!**
- If harassment is consistent and early, the time element can be reasonable



Chronicle / Mike Kepka

Effective Tactics

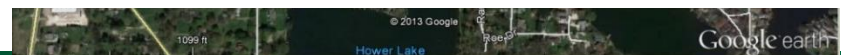
- District 3 Wildlife HQ on Portage Lakes
- In 2006, an effort was made to keep geese off the island for the year
- Total time = 24 minutes



CALENDAR FOR 2006

<p><i>2 min 55 sec</i></p> <p>JANUARY</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p><i>2 min 50 sec</i></p> <p>FEBRUARY</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					<p><i>6 min 47 sec</i></p> <p>MARCH</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p><i>1 min 45 sec</i></p> <p>APRIL</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p><i>40 sec</i></p> <p>MAY</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<p><i>5 min</i></p> <p>JUNE</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30											
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Total - 24 min 42 sec



Harassment Keys

- **Be consistent**
- **Be early (Feb.)**
- **Be persistent**
- **Focus on important areas**
- **Follow timeline**





Canada Geese – Conflict Management

- **No permit needed for harassment**
- **Harassment is most effective when:**
 - Implemented early (Feb.–March)
 - Consistently applied
 - Repeated annually



Chemical Repellents

- **ReJeX-iT and Flight Control, only chemical repellents approved by the US EPA**
 - Expensive
 - Key to success: strict following of label directions.
 - Persists for 3–7 days. Have to reapply after mowing.
 - Multiple treatments are required.



Lethal Control Permits





Canada Geese – Conflict Management

- **Egg addling or shaking (permit required)**
- **Nest and egg destruction (permit required)**
- **Goose roundup (permit required)**
- **Hunting in rural area, or where safe during hunting seasons
(requires Waterfowl Stamps & Hunting License)**



Web Base Customer Service

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/goose/>

- **Allows for customer complaint entry**
- **District on-line authorization**
- **Reduces Permit Application time**
- **Real-time project status**
- **Online since January 2008**

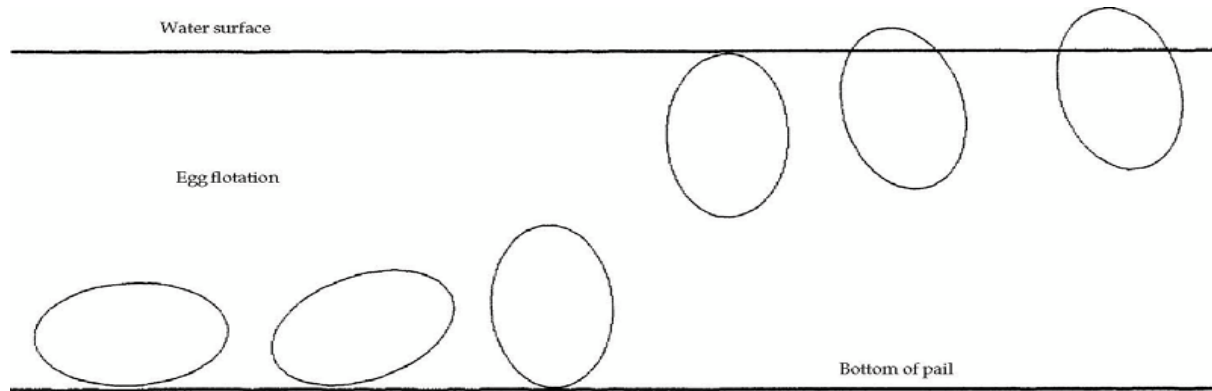


Egg or Nest Destruction

A close-up photograph of a nest containing several light-colored, speckled goose eggs. The nest is built in a bed of dry straw and twigs. The text 'Egg or Nest Destruction' is overlaid in yellow at the top of the image.

- **Lethal tactic that limits goose population growth**
- **Requires a permit from the Division of Wildlife**

Egg Addling



Shakability

Waiting period

(days) before
nest
destruction

	Too early	Good	Great	Great	Good	Too Late
	20	15	10	5	0	0

Egg Addling

- **Egg oiling** – use vegetable oil
- **Egg shaking**
- **Egg puncturing** – hole in pointed end


Replace eggs in nest so that the goose doesn't try to re-nest!



MOVING GEESE

- Moving geese to another location during June–July when geese are molting **does NOT WORK**; they will be back in August!

Goose Round Ups

- 
- A group of approximately 15-20 geese, likely Canada geese, are scattered across a well-maintained green lawn. In the background, there is a dense forest of tall, dark green trees. The geese are in various poses, some standing and some sitting. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.
- As a last option in extreme populations, geese can be rounded-up and euthanized.
 - Goslings are only to be moved with a permit.

Swan Management

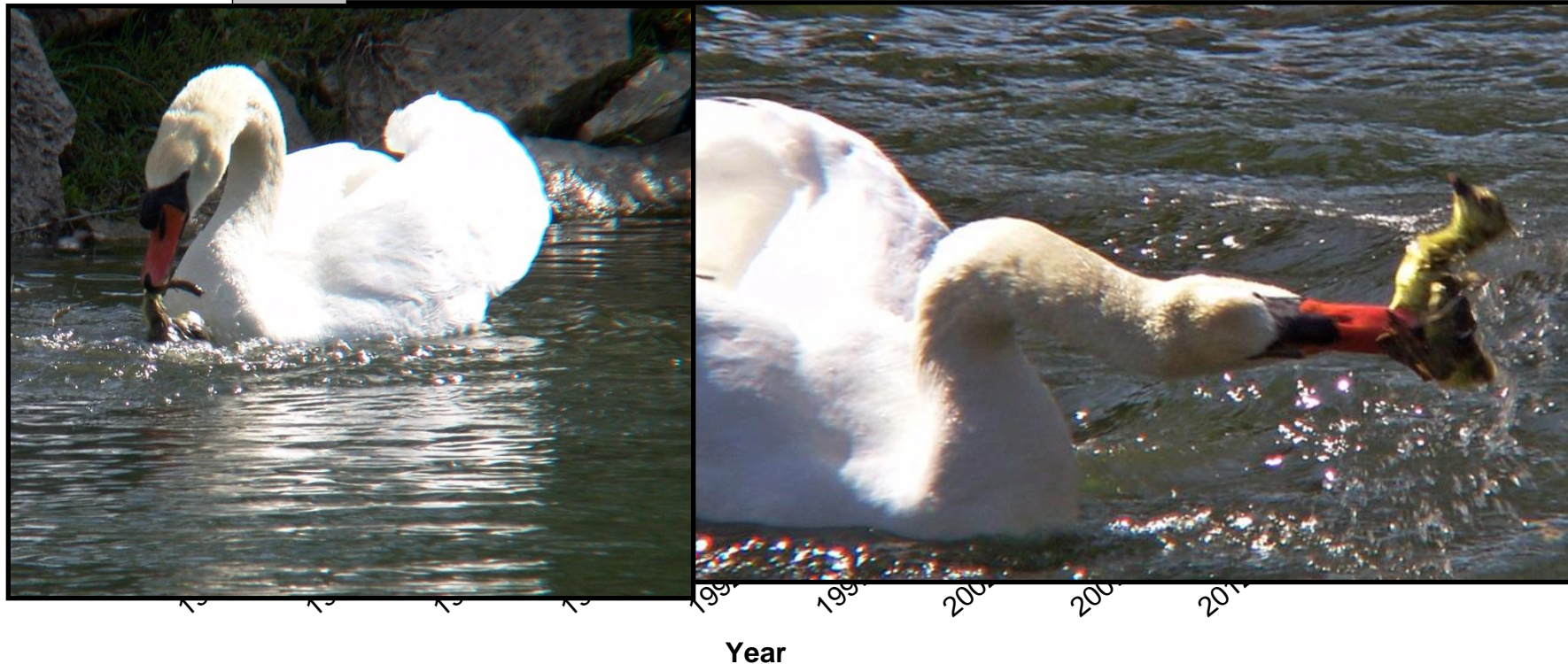
- **The Division of Wildlife recently developed a Swan Management Plan for Ohio.**



Swan Management

- Mute swans show an increasing trend
- Mute swans are aggressive and displace native wildlife

0.06



Swan Management

- The Great Lake States have created a task force to address the problem on a regional scale.
- The DOW is implementing its plan to educate the public.



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Mute sw

Great Lakes Mute Swan Summit Official Meeting Summary




Photo by Jessie Turner

August 20-21, 2013
Allen Park, MI

Report Prepared by Kirsten E. Johnson, Barbara Avers, Corey Lucas
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

Summary

Solving conflicts between people and Canada geese in Ohio is a challenge for everyone, but is obtainable for the benefit of all, including the geese with persistence!

- 
- A photograph of a park area. In the foreground, there is a black metal fence with vertical bars. Behind the fence is a body of water, possibly a pond or a small lake. In the middle ground, there is a grassy hill with a paved path leading up to a gazebo. The gazebo has a dark roof and is surrounded by trees. Some trees are bare, while others are evergreen. The sky is clear and blue.
- The magic tactic that works all the time and everywhere DOES NOT EXSIST.
 - Will see best results when multiple tactics are used.
 - Start early and remain persistent.



District Offices

District One - 1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus 43215,
(614) 644 - 3925

District Two - 952 Lima Ave., Findlay 45840,
(419) 424 - 5000

District Three - 912 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron 43319,
(330) 644 - 2293

District Four - 360 E. State St., Athens 45701,
(740) 589 - 9930

District Five - 1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia 45385,
(937) 372 - 9261



Or call 1-800 WILDLIFE

<http://www.wildohio.com>



When All Else Fails!

Gary L. Comer, Jr.

Wildlife Management Supervisor

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Wildlife District One

1500 Dublin Rd, Columbus

43215

(614) 644 - 3925

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