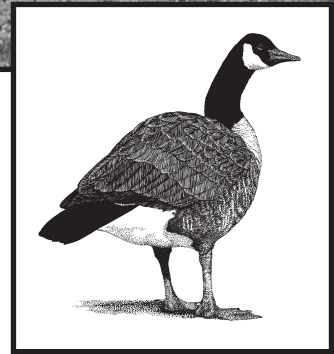


## Division of Wildlife

# HUMAN - GOOSE CONFLICT



## GIANT CANADA GOOSE HISTORY IN OHIO

Giant Canada geese were reportedly extirpated from Ohio between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the century. The Ohio Division of Wildlife initiated a giant Canada goose restoration program with 10 pairs each on three state-owned wetland areas in 1956. Goose population surveys were conducted annually on the three goose management areas since the start of the program; however, the first statewide survey was not conducted until 1979. At that time, Canada geese were nesting in 49 of Ohio's 88 counties with a state population of 18,000 geese. Recent surveys have found goose nests in every county with a population estimate of 84,000 geese, thus this quickly expanding goose population has caused conflicts with our growing human population.



## THE HUMAN - GOOSE PROBLEM

Canada geese are probably the most adaptable and tolerant of all native waterfowl. If left undisturbed, they will readily establish nesting territories on any suitable pond, be it located on a farm, backyard, golf course, apartment or condominium complex, or city park. Herein lies one of the major problems. Most people will readily welcome the first pair of geese on their pond, but these geese soon wear out their welcome. In just a few years a pair of geese can easily become 50 to 100 birds that are fouling the area around the pond and surrounding yards, as well as damaging landscaping, gardens, and other vegetation.



## Human - Goose Conflict

Additional problems arise when Canada geese feed on agricultural crops. Geese are primarily grazing animals and feed on seeds, grasses, and other young, tender plants. As a result, they can cause damage to crops such as corn, soybeans, sunflowers, and cereal grains when they are in the early growth stage. The key to solving your problem is to make your property less attractive to geese and utilize scare tactics immediately when geese show up.



We have compiled a list of suggestions and techniques for reducing waterfowl conflicts throughout the year. These techniques, especially when employed in combination, have been proven to work. However, they must be employed persistently as soon as the geese arrive on your property. If immediate action is not taken, you will experience much more difficulty in your goose control efforts. A permit is not required to merely scare, repel, or herd nuisance migratory birds, provided no attempt is made to confine the birds or destroy their nests. If, despite your efforts utilizing the following techniques, further control is needed, a special permit is required from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Contact the nearest wildlife district office listed on the back of this sheet



## STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY

The Ohio Division of Wildlife holds the statutory responsibility for managing Ohio's wildlife resources. At times, certain species conflict with human interest. These sheets are designed to help the landowner or organization alleviate waterfowl conflict situations.

## PROTECTED STATUS

Canada geese and all native waterfowl are protected under both the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Ohio state law. This protection extends to the bird's nest and eggs. It is illegal for any person, agency, or organization to take or attempt to take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect), any bird, nest, or egg outside of the regular hunting season without a special permit from the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Division of Wildlife Headquarters

(614) 265-6300  
1-800-750-0750 (TTY)  
1-800-WILDLIFE

Wildlife District One  
(614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two  
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three  
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four  
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five  
(937) 372-9261

