



Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

September 27, 2021

Wildlife Services

Mr. David Brown
Township of Ocean
399 Monmouth Road
Oakhurst, NJ 07755-1589

Atlantic City
Airport, Suite 106
Egg Harbor Twp,
NJ 08234

Dear Mr. Brown:

P(609) 641-8147
F(609) 641-8157

This final report concludes the 2021 Cooperative Service Agreement between USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) and the Township of Ocean. The agreement authorized WS to manage Canada geese through reproductive management to minimize damage. WS conducted this work pursuant to our U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Depredation Permit.

Between March and May, WS conducted Canada goose reproductive management activities at the Township of Ocean properties and properties of homeowners who signed WS' Form 12A. **WS treated 17 eggs in 4 nests during this time.** Nest and egg figures can fluctuate between years due to several variables, such as weather, flooding, nest predation, population changes and management efforts.

The table below provides a summary of WS' activities for each year an agreement was established.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Totals
Nests*	14	14	19	19	6	6	7	8	9	3	4	109
Eggs	68	61	72	89	31	34	42	39	45	17	17	515

*It is WS' policy to record only nests that contain eggs.

We hope that reducing the number of birds has been beneficial, and we encourage you to continue your efforts throughout the year to prevent further conflicts with Canada geese. Although reducing the local population of geese can result in immediate relief or reduction of damage, it is important that you continue to implement a variety of non-lethal management methods to prevent large numbers of geese from becoming established again. WS strongly recommends an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach; please see enclosure for more details.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you in your integrated Canada goose management program. We look forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Rein
Wildlife Biologist

Enclosures

Cc: Aaron Guikema, State Director, USDA APHIS WS, Pittstown, NJ
Christopher Boggs, District Supervisor, USDA APHIS WS, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ

INTEGRATED WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

If the habitat features that attracted geese to the property remain, it is reasonable to expect that more geese may move into the area over time in the absence of management. WS strongly encourages the use of an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) plan for your property. IWDM is the use of multiple techniques to help alleviate the problem. We therefore recommend that the following methods are continued or implemented at your location:

- Any feeding of geese or other waterfowl by residents, customers, or the public must be discontinued immediately. Signs stating that feeding of waterfowl is prohibited should be posted in public or common areas. Homeowner associations and communities are encouraged to adopt agreements, by-laws, or regulations that prohibit the feeding of wildlife.
- Habitat modifications include the alteration of vegetation and bodies of water to remove their attractiveness to geese. Geese are grazers and prefer short, green grass for food. Allow grass to grow longer or plant less attractive vegetation (such as pachysandra, periwinkle and euonymus) so it is unpalatable to the birds. Deterring geese from water bodies can be effective through the use of grid wire systems and fencing on and around the water body. Other habitat deterrents include mylar tape, flagging, balloons and repellents.
- Harassment activities should be implemented immediately when geese first arrive for maximum effectiveness. Harassment may include the use of loud noises, chasing on foot or with vehicles, pyrotechnics, dogs, etc. It is important to be persistent and proactive with harassment efforts to ensure that geese do not become established in large numbers. Please remember to check with your local authorities to ensure that these tools are legal to use in your area.
- To reduce population growth, eggs in Canada goose nests should continue to be treated each spring to prevent hatching. Canada geese typically will nest in the same general area each year. Geese nesting on your property may not necessarily molt on your property; therefore, reproductive management should be continued even if a capture was conducted.

Additional information for managing waterfowl damage may be found on WS' web page at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/operational-activities/sa_waterfowl/ct_waterfowl. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Nicole Rein at 609-548-3833.