



Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife Services

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August 25, 2023

Don Brockel  
Deal Lake Commission  
399 Monmouth Rd  
Oakhurst, NJ 07755

Dear Mr. Brockel:

This final report concludes the 2023 Cooperative Service Agreement between USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) and Deal Lake Commission. 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 Deal Lake properties where written permission was obtained. **WS treated 34 eggs in 10 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.

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,

Nicole Rein  
Wildlife Biologist

Enclosure

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 recommend the following methods are continued or implemented at your location:

- **Feeding of geese and other waterfowl by residents, customers or 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 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. Therefore, allow grass to grow longer or plant less attractive vegetation such as pachysandra, periwinkle and euonymus. Grid wire systems and fencing can deter geese from water bodies. Other habitat deterrents include mylar tape, flagging, balloons and repellents.
- **Harassment activities should be implemented immediately when geese first arrive for maximum effectiveness.** Harassment can 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 check with your local authorities for information on noise ordinances.
- **To reduce population growth, continue to treat Canada goose eggs 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 can be found on WS' web page at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/GeeseDucksCoots-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/GeeseDucksCoots-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf). If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Nicole Rein at 609-548-3833.

