

GIANT CANADA GOOSE NESTING CONTROL INFORMATION LEAFLET



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Actions described in this leaflet can only be performed by persons possessing a Federal subpermit issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. All eggs removed from a Canada goose nest must be disposed of immediately by burial or incineration.

Canada geese typically nest on islands, muskrat houses, tree stumps, artificial nesting structures and other objects located away from the shoreline. In Indiana, goose nesting generally begins during early to late March, depending on weather conditions. Egg-laying begins soon after nest construction is complete. Female giant Canada geese lay an average of 1.5 eggs per day and have an average clutch size of 5 eggs. Incubation of eggs by the female does not begin until the last egg has been laid; incubation lasts an average of 26 to 28 days.

Egg and nest removal will not solve conflicts with Canada geese. Efforts should be made to make the habitat less attractive to geese. Your Division of Fish and Wildlife District Biologist will provide details on this. Removal of the nest and eggs at any stage (prior to pipping) is only recommended in areas where human safety is a concern, such as a public airport. However, if eggs are removed after at least the 19th day of incubation, Canada geese will probably not attempt to re-nest during that particular breeding season. If eggs are destroyed prior to 19 days incubation, Canada geese will attempt to re-nest.

The incubation period for Canada geese is approximately 28 days. Determining the approximate stage of incubation is necessary before deciding when eggs should be removed from the nest and destroyed (see Figure 1 for determining incubation stage of eggs).

- 1) If eggs feel cool to the touch, incubation has not begun and the goose may not be finished laying her clutch. These nests should be re-visited after 7-10 days.
- 2) Eggs in floatation stages 1-4 should not be removed yet, but should be treated by any of the methods listed below under 'Egg Treatment Techniques.' Revisit these nests in 5-20 days to remove the eggs and nest material. Refer to Figure 1 to determine the proper waiting period.
- 3) Eggs in floatation stages 5 or 6 should be removed and destroyed, along with removal of the nest material. **Eggs in floatation stage 6 may be on the verge of hatching. It is very important to note that eggs that have already been pipped (i.e. gosling is pecking through the eggshell and is in the process of hatching) may not be destroyed! You must allow all the eggs in that nest to hatch.**