



POPULATION STABILIZATION



Line art by Timothy Knepp

Field Guide

FIELD EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Data Sheet to record nest numbers and locations
- _____ 2. GeesePeace Field Guide
- _____ 3. Flags
- _____ 4. Maps as provided
- _____ 5. Bucket (s)
- _____ 6. Required documentation
- _____ 7. Property Owner Consent form
- _____ 8. GeesePeace ID
- _____ 9. Bottle filled with 100% corn oil
- _____ 10. Binoculars (optional)
- _____ 11. Umbrella(s)
- _____ 12. Clipboard (optional)
- _____ 13. Waterproof pen
- _____ 14. Latex gloves
- _____ 15. Zip Lock bag
- _____ 16. Paper towels
- _____ 17. Waterproof sheath

This publication is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the GeesePeace training course, which qualifies participants for the GeesePeace Population Stabilization program.

Each person agrees to participate at his/her own risk. This publication is intended as a guide and cannot be substituted for a participant's own judgment and common sense.

Neither GeesePeace nor any of its partners assumes responsibility for any negligence, environmental variable, animal behavior, or act of God associated with this activity.

GeesePeace is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to building better communities through humane, innovative and effective solutions to wildlife conflict.

Do not approach injured wildlife. Call your local wildlife rehabilitator or animal control.



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GeesePeace Partner Program

The GeesePeace Program consists of three strategies. They are humane “Population Stabilization”, “Site Aversion” and “Public Education”. The effectiveness of the program is dependant on a balance within these strategies that is unique to each site.

Population Stabilization

The first strategy of population stabilization through egg oiling is important because it contributes to the long term reduction in overall numbers of resident geese, reduces adult loyalty to one site because there are no goslings to protect, and therefore significantly improves the effectiveness of the nuisance abatement strategies.

Information on the other two integral strategies of our program, Site Aversion and Public Education can be found on our Web site www.GeesePeace.org or in our Partner Program brochure.

GeesePeace Field Guide Egg Oiling Protocol

BEFORE YOU GO:

Review Field Equipment Checklist.

Wear appropriate clothing. **Safety First!**

Go only as a team, never alone.

Team Member 1

1. Approach 15 feet from nest.
2. Open umbrella(s).
3. Slowly approach nest, holding the open umbrella low. If the umbrella has a point, be careful to not poke the goose with the point. Only use the soft sides to ward off the geese or nudge them.
4. Stand facing mother goose and gander with umbrella open, moving as they move to place yourself between geese and nest.
5. Do not assist with oiling. This is Team Member 2 responsibility. Focus on keeping gander and mother goose away from the nest.
6. When oiling is complete, allow Team Member 2 to collect materials and retreat from nest. Walk back away from nest, still watching approaching geese until you are 5-10 feet beyond nest.
7. When appropriate, place flag 10 feet to the north of the nest. If near a water body, place flag 10 feet perpendicular to the water's edge.
8. Record data on Egg Oiling Data Sheet and record location on map or GPS unit if available. Note if eggs did not feel warm or if goose was off nest when team arrived. This nest must be revisited after 10 days.

Team Member 2

1. Fill bucket 1 with at least 6 inches of water
2. Approach nest after Team Member 1 coaxes mother goose off nest.
3. Remove materials from 2nd bucket . Put on gloves if appropriate. Tear off two paper towel sheets.
4. Wait for geese to be moved from nest area.
5. Feel eggs for warmth. Advise team member 1
6. Mark each egg with an “x”
7. Test one egg by placing it in water “float test”.
8. If the egg floats, do not oil eggs. Place egg back in nest, retreat from nest. Do not dry egg.
9. If the egg passes the float test, dry test egg with paper towel.
10. Place 1-2 tablespoons of oil on first egg. Oil and repeat with all eggs, making sure to coat entire egg surface.
11. Replace each egg in nest after it is oiled.
12. Remove and place soiled gloves and towels in Zip Lock Bag. Use paper towel for additional clean up.
13. Collect materials around nest site and retreat.
14. Retreat from nest.

Remember to send in your Data Sheet and report results to program coordinator to comply with US Fish and Wildlife Service requirements.