school grounds and molt there. Also, some juvenile geese (non-nesters) from other places in the neighboring counties who are looking for a good place to nest and molt may pick a water body in the program area.

The geese that do not "molt migrate" and goslings cannot leave until early to mid August when they are again able to fly. Until then, they are trapped because they are flightless. This is a cause of frustration with Canada geese because it seems no matter what one does they do not leave. In fact, they cannot. Unfortunately, this period coincides with the start of the spring active outdoor activities and continues into summer vacation times when people are out in parks.

Molt Migration

Fortunately, resident Canada geese without goslings (juveniles and adult geese with failed nesting) have an option to find a distant place to molt*, before* they are biologically trapped in the area. When geese without goslings leave their nesting area it is called a "molt migration". Sometimes this molt migration, which begins in early June, can take the geese hundreds of miles away. This has been confirmed by studies on molt migration conducted by Cornell University and the Michigan DNR. They placed satellite tracking devices on geese without goslings. Theses geese left their local nesting areas in early June and did not return until late September. They molted in James Bay, in Canada.

Also, during the months of September through February, resident Canada geese fly from pond to pond so they are aware of many possible good areas to molt, many of which do not cause problems for communities.

Why do resident geese go on a molt migration?

Geese have a built in mechanism to fly north in the spring (iron in the beak helps them navigate – a built in compass). Canada is a much better place to molt because of the longer daylight hours in the spring and summer and abundant water and grasslands.