

Nuisance Wildlife – Issues, Regulations, and Management

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Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



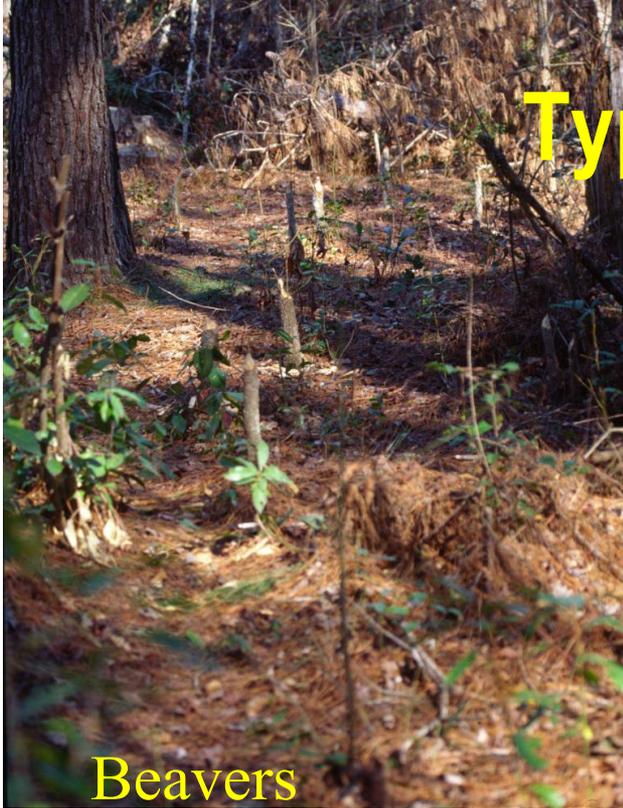
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Ponds

Livestock
Irrigation
Recreation



Typical Damage



Beavers



resident Canada geese



Muskrat

Other common species

**herons, cormorants, pelicans, gulls, egrets,
mergansers, and other diving ducks**



Beavers

Facts

- Largest rodent in N.A.
- Family Group
 - Adult pair
 - Two Generations of Offspring
- Breed Jan-Mar.
- Kits Born Apr – Jun (105-17 day Gestation)
 - 1-8 Kits, Southeast Avg. 3.3)
- Herbivorous Diet





Water flow Management







08/10/2001

Non-Lethal Management

Tree Protection

- Small Mesh Wire Fencing
- Repellents
 - Ro.pel
 - Paint & Sand
- Complete Exclusion

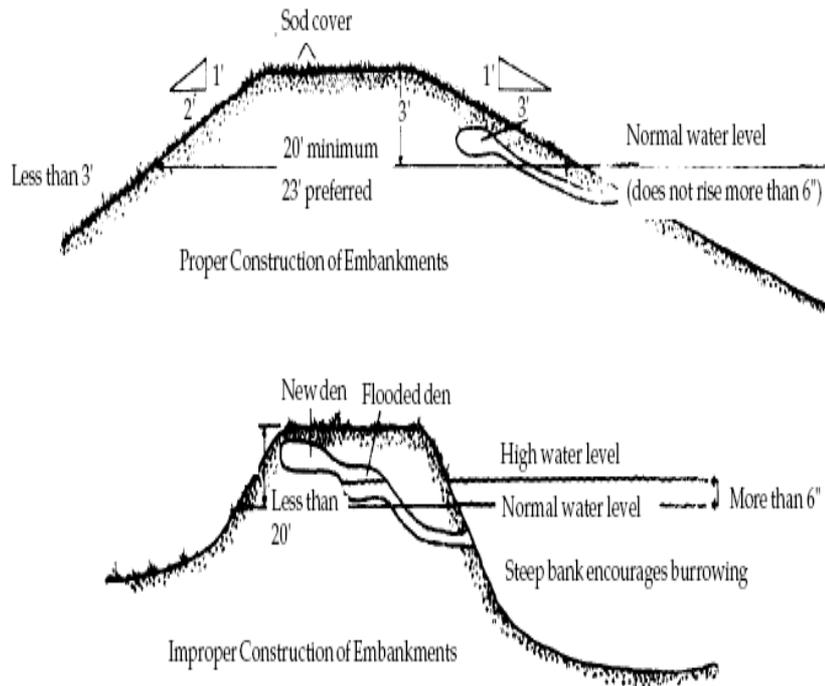


Muskrat Biology and Facts



- Muskrats, as adults, are approximately, 18-24 inches long.
- Muskrats weigh around 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 4 pounds.
- They have a long rudder like tail which helps them steer as they swim.
- Fur coloration ranges from light brown to dark/almost black.
- Muskrats are extremely prolific.
- Mating may occurs 3+ times in the South and 1-2 times farther north.
- Gestation period is only 25-30 days.
- Litter sizes are typical 3-4 in number.

Pond Management



Muskrats in some situations can be excluded or prevented from digging into farm pond dams through stone rip-rapping of the dam.

Proper construction of dams can reduce problems from burrowing by muskrats.

Fig. 5. Proper dam construction can reduce muskrat damage to the structure.

Population Reduction Options



Trapping

- May need trapping license or permit
- 100 yard exemption



Shooting

- May need a permit
- 100 yard exemption

Summary

- Water Flow Devices Can Work in the Right Conditions
- Upkeep and Maintenance is Required
- Pond design
- Population Management Increases Chances of Success

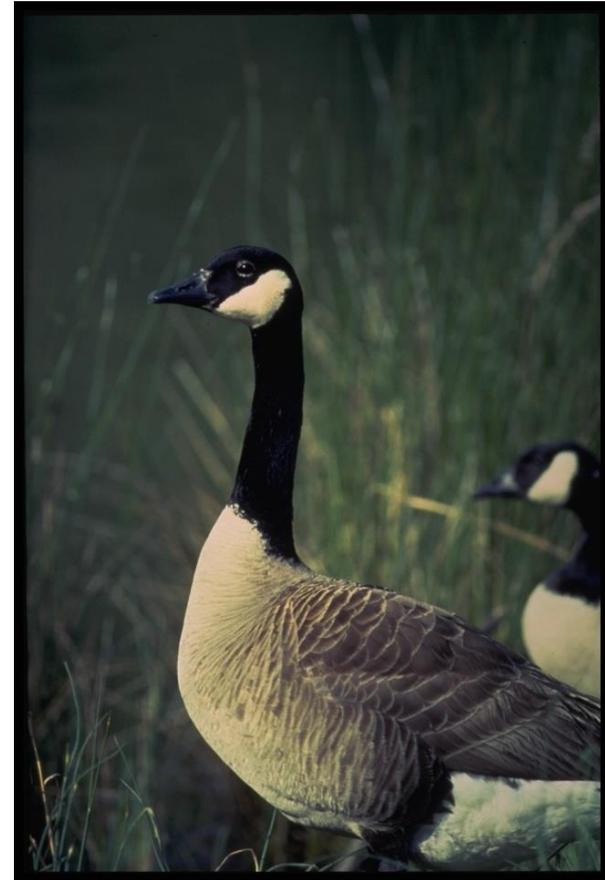
Migratory Bird Management



- Landowner can harass migratory birds except threatened or endangered species.
- WS can assist with Federal and State Permit to remove birds and reinforce nonlethal actions.

Resident Canada Geese

- Reside predominantly in the U.S.
- Do not have the characteristically long north/south migration patterns
- Exhibit high annual production and survival
 - limited predators
 - preferred habitat
 - tolerate human
- Family Life
 - Usually pair for life
 - 5-8 eggs
 - 28 day incubation period
- SC Population Estimate - 50,000



Bird Management

Landowner Employed

- No Feeding Policy
- Harassment
- Habitat Modification
- Repellents
- Hunting
- Federal and state depredation permits for removal



Laws and Regulations



Depredation Order for Nests and Eggs

This order allows property owners, their agents or employees to remove or oil nests and eggs between March 1—June 30. Online registration with the FWS is required and an annual report must be sent to the FWS by October 31.

<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>

Depredation Permit

A permit can be requested from the SCDNR. The permit authorizes SCDNR to issue individual permits to landowners, homeowners associations, and other legal entities for the lethal take of resident Canada geese between the period of March 10 – August 31.

803-734-3886 (Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries)

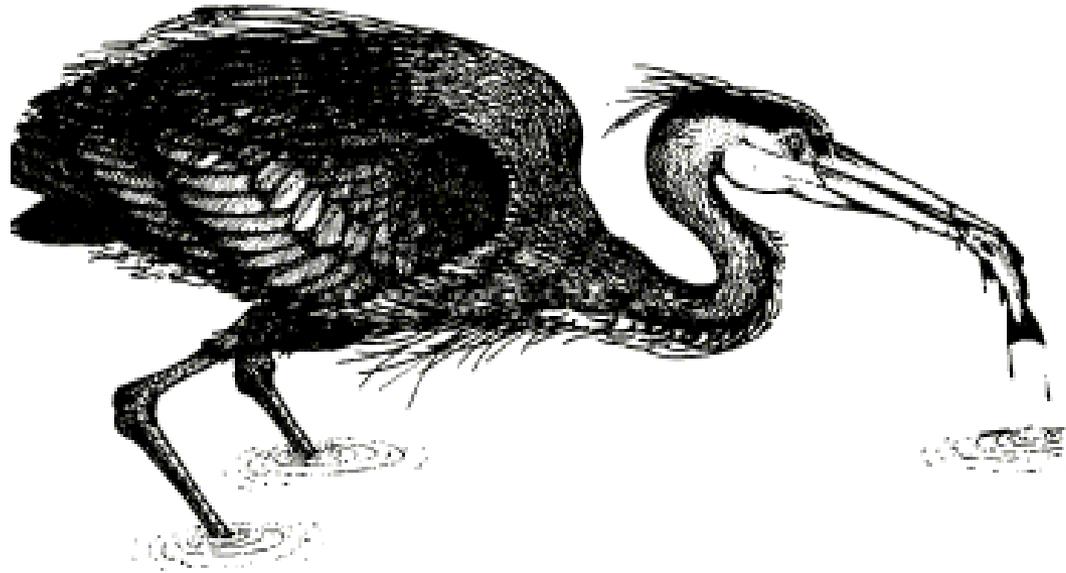
Waterfowl Management

Wildlife Management Specialists

- Round ups
- Chemical capture
- Rocket/Cannon Nets



Fish-Eating Birds



Damage

- **Eat fingerlings and adult fish**
- **Economic impact**
 - **injure fish, disrupt feeding, broodstock, contribute to spreading disease/parasites**
 - **shellfish beds, birds & coliform bacteria standards**



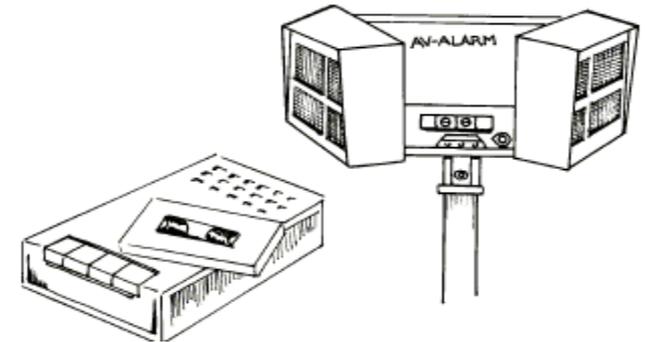
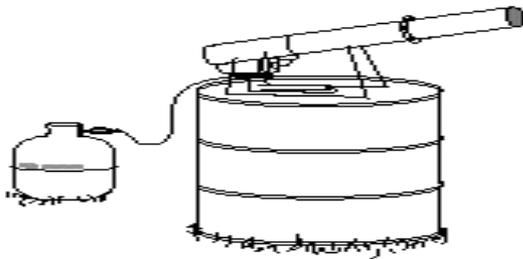
Damage Prevention & Control

- **Cultural Methods**

- Facility location & design
- Fish management

- **Frightening (ponds & roosts)**

- No permit required except for T&E species. Automatic exploder, pyrotechnic, radio-controlled airplanes alarm/distress calls, lights, water spray devices, raptor models, effigies, aircraft, chemical (Avitrol)



Summary

- Educate employees and public
 - Safety concern
 - Increased maintenance costs
- Use an integrated approach
- Be persistent
- Document methods attempted and results
- Document costs

Well ... what do we do now?

