



What's Black and White and Poops All Over?

By Dee Kasarda



Obviously it's the Canada goose and it is a challenge to rid our beach and lake areas of this bird which is protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Everyone knows how messy the beaches and walking areas are from this bird but did you know one goose will defecate 3 pounds a day? Over the course of one year that goose will fill a 1000 gallon septic tank! That is enough pollutant to close our beaches and cause diseases that humans can acquire. Since it is rare to see one goose alone, you can do the math!

The Canada goose population is growing at a rate of 10% per year. Currently the national population is estimated at 4 million. Within 3 years, there will be 1.2 million additional geese. One goose can live up to 24 years. Few natural predators means Canada geese lay more eggs and have more of those eggs survive to adulthood. Again at this time I want to stress our "no feeding policy" and ask that you comply.

The key to success when using any technique is persistence. The resident geese are reluctant to leave and will be undeterred if control methods are not consistently employed. We have a Federal Permit in LLV to help us control this unwanted visitor and I am looking for volunteers to take a more active role in helping me. Please leave your name and number at the office.

For those that would like to change the system, I would like to encourage you to write to your representative in Washington, D. C. and have them review the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and take the Canada goose off the list.