ABSTRACT: Social and management problems associated with urban Canada geese (Branta canadensis) are increasing in area, scope and magnitude. Although there are many articles on the management of urban Canada geese, none provide enough information for a reader to understand the impact geese have on different people, the ecology of the urban goose, evaluate the effectiveness of potential control options, choose appropriate management techniques, and then implement the chosen techniques. The authors present a manual and video, which in combination, they believe are not deficient in any of these areas. The video is intended to increase the awareness and knowledge of human/goose conflicts in urban and suburban environments. The manual covers the biology of Canada goose relevant to problem management in an urban setting and a comprehensive list of management techniques. Detailed instructions for implementation, permit requirements, sources of equipment and supplies, and a discussion of advantages, disadvantages, and characteristics, are included for each technique. To assist in choosing and locating appropriate techniques, quick reference summary tables are included.

KEY WORDS: birth control, Canada goose, habitat modification, hazing, removal, techniques manual, urban wildlife
introduced, alternative views from individuals with differing backgrounds are presented, then overviews of commonly used management techniques are shown.

The manual contains enough technical information that it may be used as a reference manual by professional wildlife biologists. However, it is written in a style that ordinary citizens can understand. The manual covers Canada goose biology as it relates to the urban/suburban environment including descriptions and general behavior, breeding behavior, nesting, molting, migration, and mortality. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires permits to harvest, or even handle, Canada geese. Information on U.S. and Canadian regulations and permits concerning Canada geese is provided, including some example permit applications.

A section of the manual is devoted to the ideas of matching the ecology of the geese with various techniques and the importance of developing an integrated management strategy. This includes establishment of management goals, publicity, combining techniques for enhanced effects, and potential problems and advice for field personnel when applying certain techniques.

The largest section, and the focal point of the manual, is techniques. This section represents a sincere effort to document the state of knowledge about urban goose management practices as it existed in 1997. The primary intent is to provide a list of techniques currently in use or previously tried to alleviate human/goose conflicts in urban areas. Some techniques are highly specialized, site-specific, or may best be used in combination with other techniques. Thus, no attempt was made to rate or scale the techniques from "best" to "worst." Techniques are categorized on the basis of impact on geese (from least to greatest); prohibiting feeding, habitat modification, repellents, hazing/scaring, birth control, and removal. Within categories, groupings are based on similarity of techniques. Each technique is fully described and cited to the original studies or for further details. Each technique is also related to the part(s) of the goose ecology it affects, and strengths and weaknesses discussed. If a technique's effect may be enhanced if used in conjunction with another, the combination is noted.

Following the techniques section is a continent-wide listing of commercial suppliers of the preceding techniques. The compilation was made from a thorough literature search, however, some suppliers were undoubtedly omitted. This table is provided as a convenience, and no endorsement is implied for those included nor were any suppliers intentionally omitted. The final section consists of a summary look-up table for the techniques. Each technique is summarized by its strengths, weaknesses, qualitative cost estimates, timing and area of application, permits required for implementation, and a page number referencing its detailed description.

When these products are available, announcements will be made on The Wildlife Society (TWS) and WDMAGE email lists and in the Probe and TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group newsletters.

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