

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

5 - Fifth Eastern Wildlife Damage Control
Conference (1991)

Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conferences

February 1991

REDUCING NUISANCE CANADA GOOSE PROBLEMS THROUGH HABITAT MANIPULATION

Michael R. Conover

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Utah State University, Logan, UT

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ewdcc5>



Part of the [Environmental Health and Protection Commons](#)

Conover, Michael R., "REDUCING NUISANCE CANADA GOOSE PROBLEMS THROUGH HABITAT MANIPULATION"
(1991). 5 - Fifth Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference (1991). 10.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ewdcc5/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conferences at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in 5 - Fifth Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference (1991) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

REDUCING NUISANCE CANADA GOOSE PROBLEMS THROUGH HABITAT MANIPULATION

MICHAEL R. CONOVER, *Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322*

Proceedings 10th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Conference
(S.E. Hygnstrom, R.M. Case, and R.J. Johnson, eds.)
Published at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1991.

Abstract: Urban populations of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) cause considerable problems when large numbers congregate in parks, playing fields, and backyards. In most cases, geese are drawn to these sites to feed on the lawns. I tested whether geese have feeding preferences for different grass species. Captive Canada geese preferred Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and disliked tall fescue (*Festuca arundinaceae*) over colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis tenuis* cv. Highland), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). They refused to eat some other ground covers such as pachysandra

(*Pachysandra terminalis*) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*). These results suggest that goose numbers at problem sites could be reduced by changing the ground cover. I also compared the characteristics of foraging sites used by geese to other foraging sites that geese avoided. Occupied sites were more open so that geese had clearer visibility and greater ease in taking off and landing. This suggests that goose numbers at problem sites also could be reduced by planting tall trees to make it harder for the geese to fly away, and planting bushes and hedges to obstruct a goose's visibility.