

Geesebuster's Eagle Kite Keeps Geese Away

Interview with Rob
Guadagna of Geesebusters

BY E.M. FAY

When Canada geese fly over a body of water or grassy land, it is natural for them to consider using that area for feeding, nesting, or as a stopping-off point during migration. Geese gravitate to areas where they have landed before, as they are possessed of excellent memories and navigational skills.



As humans take over more and more wild habitats, paving wetlands and building in meadows, Canada geese – like all birds – have had to adjust and find new places to rest, molt, and raise their goslings, such as lakeside developments, golf courses, and parks.

This necessity has brought Canada geese, among other waterfowl, into conflict with people in many communities. Complaining about goose “deposits” on lawns and alleging health risks, some have demanded that municipal authorities “do something” to get rid of the geese.

In many instances, citizens’ groups and others have turned to the misnamed branch of the USDA, “Wildlife Services,” (WS). **Wildlife Services is in the business of killing wildlife across the country. On their website, they catalogue the estimated number of animals they kill annually. In the case of wild birds, they kill millions, often at the behest of ranchers, who claim their feedlots are contaminated by starlings or other species. The ranchers contract WS to poison the birds for a fee.**

Regarding Canada geese, WS works with game agencies to find clients, and get a contract. Typically, they wait until the geese are molting in late June, when they cannot fly for a period of several weeks. The summer molt takes place during breeding season, so the presence of young goslings makes the geese extra vulnerable. Wildlife Services has zero concern for these families, as they corral all the geese in a given area, contain them in crates, and gas them or send them to slaughter.

There is some hope on the horizon for Canada geese who come in conflict with humans, however. Rob Guadagna, a lifelong bird enthusiast, who has considerable experience raising and caring for wild species, was disgusted by the barbaric treatment our feathered friends received from WS.

In 2003, with a partner, Guadagna designed a device that uses nature’s own intelligence to harmlessly dissuade Canada geese and other waterfowl from moving into areas where humans don’t want them.

From his years of observing birds and their behavior, Guadagna knew that one thing that invariably discourages virtually any avian species from settling anywhere is the presence of a predatory bird, especially an eagle. Even large birds like geese will shy away from exposing themselves and their young to such a threat.

As he explained to us, **“It suddenly came to me, the eagle is the best way to control the bird world.”**

Guadagna thus created “Geesebusters,” a lifelike, three-dimensional eagle figure with a realistic

6 - 7 foot wingspan. Guadagna, or someone trained by him, lays the eagle down in the targeted park or golf course, etc., and lets out 50 - 100 yards of line. The eagle is launched upwards. As the line is let out, it makes a gliding, circular motion, just as a real eagle does when seeking prey. The faux predator can be sent up to a quarter mile in distance. When it descends, the operator makes the eagle rise again moving in any direction. Any birds in the area will see this threat and hightail it out of there.

Although ground-nesting birds like Canada geese and others are alarmed by the sight of a circling eagle, smaller birds such as songbirds will generally hide in trees. Most songbirds will not be bothered by Guadagna's device.

Guadagna has helped farmers on Long Island, where geese would go into a corn field, wiping out acres of existing seed. After Geesebusters arrived, they stayed out, so there was no need to re-seed. Geesebusters also works on the ubiquitous and much-maligned starlings.

The eagle is more effective, more affordable, and far kinder than Wildlife Services' lethal method. Besides the kit, Guadagna offers training to his clients. Thus, they need buy only once, rather than hiring a lethal contractor every year.



Guadagna has been interviewed by TIME magazine and others. See a video showing Geesebusters at work:

www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,30959135001_0,00.html

http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,30959135001_1913192,00.html

Contact: **Robert Guadagna of GEESEBUSTERS** at geesebusters@gmail.com