

## Warner Park Goose Round Up Data Sheet

3/30/10

Lowell Wright

The population of resident Canada geese in Wisconsin has dramatically increased over the past 25 years. There are more city green spaces, parks, and developments with detention basins providing safety, security, and hundreds of additional nesting habitats throughout Dane County. Resident Canada geese can be large (8-12 lbs), long lived, and very adaptable. Protection of nests and young by these non-migrating fowl often lead to conflicts with citizens.

**They also pose a threat to aviation!**

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Almost all of us are familiar with the "Miracle on the Hudson."

The event has confirmed the need and importance of minimizing wildlife hazards on and around airport.

Dane County Regional Airport (DCRA) has documented a problem with resident Canada geese in Warner Park in Madison, WI. In this presentation are: 1) the requirements for wildlife management at airports, as dictated by the Federal Aviation Administration, 2) evidence of resident Canada geese from Warner Park presenting an aviation hazard at DCRA, and 3) population management techniques for the Warner Park geese.

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Goose Round-up Data Sheet

3/26/2010

14 Code of Federal Regulations

Part 139

Certification of Airport

### 139.337 Wildlife hazard management

-Airports with a certificate to conduct air carrier operations

-determines when a WHA is required

-Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (2002)

-WHA conducted by FAA certified biologist (USDA-WS, new WHA began 2/10)

-List Local, State, and Federal permits required

-Personnel responsible for wildlife mitigation operations

-Conducting physical inspections of the airfield (min 5 /day)

-Review WHIP every 12 months (DCRA every 6 mo)

-WHIP required to contain:

-Provide measures to alleviate or eliminate wildlife hazards to air carrier operations

-Be submitted to, and approved by, the Administrator (FAA) prior to implementation

-As authorized by the FAA, become part of the Airport Certification Manual

-Airport staff required annual training for wildlife hazard management by FAA certified biologist.

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Litigation from lawsuits and FAA regulations pertaining to wildlife strikes and bird strikes have resulted in the clarification of responsibilities for airport operators.

If a known hazard exists on or around the airport and the airport operator ignores the hazard, the airport, historically, will be liable.

Airports with an approved FAA Wildlife Hazard Assessment, Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, and documentation of proactive/reactive/active wildlife management operations, historically have not been found liable for incidents involving aircraft and wildlife.

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FAA has determined airport operators are responsible for wildlife management within 10,000ft of any runway when there is

commercial jet service and 5sm from the runways arrival and departure corridors.

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Year	Events	Bird observations	# of birds dispatched	# of WP Banded geese
2007	29	1261	13	0
2008	96	5396	21	3
2009	84	1588	46	6

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**Warner Park is approximately 7,500ft from the primary runway at Dane County Regional Airport.**

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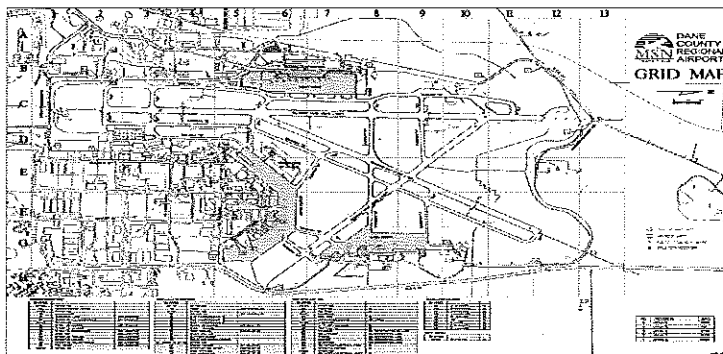
Wisconsin DNR banded 132 Canada geese in Warner park on June 25, 2007.

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The following Canada geese, banded in Warner Park in 2007, were dispatched at Dane County Regional Airport in accordance with the Wildlife Management Plan through a Federal Depredation Permit.

Date	Band #	Grid Map Location
3/17/08	1038-80256	B-11
8/15/08	1038-80264	B-12
12/16/08	1038-80225	D-7
2/18/09	1038-80117	A-8
3/23/09	1038-80122	C-2
3/25/09	1038-80015	G-10
5/6/09	1038-80217	B-11
10/22/09	1038-80206	H-13
10/22/09	1038-80266	H-13

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DCRA requested WDNR to conduct another banding operation at Warner Park to confirm the current recovered band data and to use neck collars in an attempt to identify local resident birds through a nonlethal process.

DCRA was advised the WDNR will no longer conduct banding operations of any type in Warner Park because they want to focus their banding operations on huntable populations of Canada geese. Wisconsin DNR does not allow the trapping and relocation of Canada geese. If geese are trapped they are either banded then released, or euthanized.

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- Habitat modification
    - Mowing grass heights
    - Steep creek banks
  - Goose removal
    - Round up
    - Hunting
  - Dispersal methods
    - Sirens, horns
    - Distress electronic callers
    - Coyote effigies
  - Active harassment
    - Laser harassment
    - Trained dogs
    - Pyrotechnics (cracker shells, screamer shells)
    - Lethal hazing (shotgun)
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Fall (Sept – Nov)

-Peak migration of birds from the north combine with resident populations. Little pressure on the birds and mostly unhuntable population. Intensive harassment efforts required before the birds become comfortable (2 hours around dawn, 2 hours around sunset are the most active). Flocks can range in size from two to 500+ birds.

Winter (Dec – Mid Feb)

-Resident goose population will stay in the area, migrants depart for points south. Birds are easily harassed.

February – March

-Geese begin establishing breeding areas. Hazing usually consists of pairs or family groups (5 – 2 birds).

Mid March – Mid April

-Geese begin building nests and laying eggs. Nonlethal harassment become ineffective.

Late April – Mid May

-Peak aggression by adult geese defending their nests.  
-Egg oiling or shaking can be an option, but does not disperse the adult birds.

Mid May – Mid June

-Gosling hatch  
-Parents and goslings unable to fly, even when harassed.

Mid June – First of July

-Almost all Canada geese are flightless due to molt

July – September

-Goslings begin to fly and adults able to fly with new feather (molt).  
-Effective time to harass birds from locations prior to arrival of migrant geese in late Sept.

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The Wisconsin DNR has indicated they do not want to conduct another banding project at Warner Park and consider the resident Canada goose population "not a huntable population". WDNR does not allow the trapping and relocating of Canada geese. Any geese trapped are banded then released or euthanized.

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There is significant data indicating a resident Canada goose population problem at Warner Park, which has an impact on human health and safety.

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Dane County Regional Airport and the 115<sup>TH</sup> Fighter Wing would like to conduct a goose round up at Warner Park in June 2010. USDA-Wildlife Services would be the agency conducting the round up.

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DCRA looks forward to working with the City of Madison, USDA-Wildlife Services and WDNR, with the goal of public health and safety.

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