

The Law: All wildlife, including Canada geese, are protected by local, state, and federal regulations. It is unlawful to keep indigenous animals as pets or to harm them maliciously.



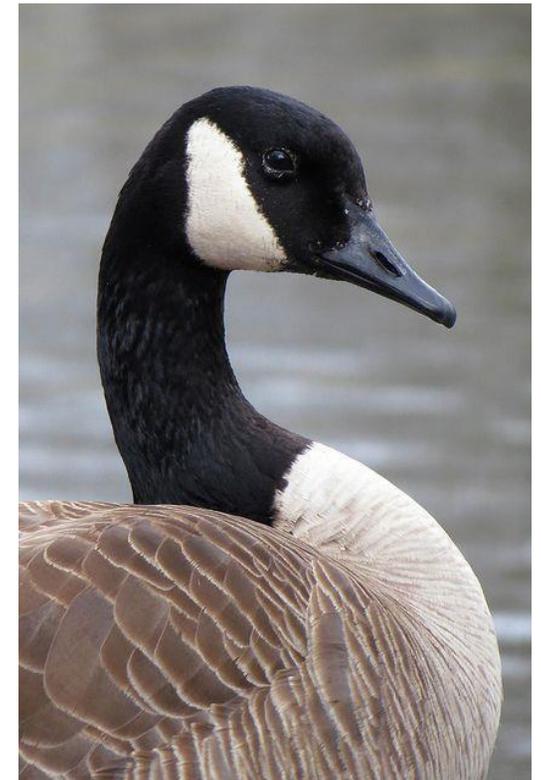
NORTHERN COLORADO  
WILDLIFE + CENTER

[www.nocowildlife.org](http://www.nocowildlife.org)



# Living with Canada Geese

Humane solutions to living in  
coexistence with Canada geese



NORTHERN COLORADO  
WILDLIFE + CENTER

**Description:**

Canada geese have a dark grey body with a black neck and head. They have a very distinct white cheek patch along with a white patch near the base of their tail.

**Wingspan:** 20 inches

**Length:** 25 to 45 inches

**Weight:** 8-13 lbs

**Habitat:**

Most ducks and geese are migratory, although local populations may become resident and remain year round at a location. All waterfowl require bodies of water, such as rivers or lakes, at some time in the year.

**Food:**

Geese feed chiefly on grass, grains, and other vegetation.

**Problems Associated with Canada Geese:**

The primary conflict between waterfowl and humans occurs over maintained lawns or landscape. These conflicts are usually aesthetic, cosmetic, convenient, and (some say) sanitary issues. The actual grazing done by geese is seldom an issue because they do not disturb or physically damage turf. Most often it is the fecal deposits and the aggregation of numbers of birds that produce conflict.

**Solutions:**

HABITAT MODIFICATION- Control of waterfowl requires awareness and sensitivity to potential problems before they get out of hand. Supplemental feeding, while pleasurable and sometimes helpful activity, often leads to overpopulation and dependency. Feeders should be aware of these possible negative effects, and strategies should be developed to prevent adverse situations from occurring.

EXCLUSION- Plastic netting or light wire fencing, such as chicken wire, in small areas, can exclude waterfowl. The birds may also depart from an area if trees or tall shrubs are planted along their line of flight between a pond and adjacent property. Provide more bushes and hedges to reduce the goose's ability to detect predators. Hedges will also discourage geese from walking between ponds and feeding areas. Plant unpalatable ground cover such as Pachysandra, English Ivy, Myrtle, and Hosta.

FRIGHTENING- A variety of techniques can be used to scare waterfowl. However, a combination of techniques is usually most effective. Scarecrows or other foreign objects work well, but waterfowl can quickly adapt to constant stimuli. A number of automatic noise making devices are on the market and can be useful as well. A simple 2x3' black plastic flag made from a garbage bag can be very effective as well. Simply attach it to a 4' wooden lathe and place it in the area where you are trying to deter the geese from.