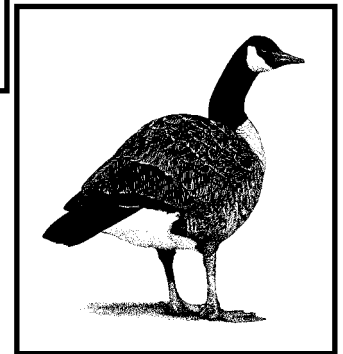


Division of Wildlife

LASERS



Lasers provide a new goose harassment tool which can be used in urban areas without disturbing your neighbors. If done correctly and at the right time, geese are scared by the laser beam, and quickly leave an area when harassed with a laser. The lasers are only effective at night. Lasers are not effective against geese that are actively nesting, on goslings that cannot fly, or on adult geese that are molting and cannot fly. If you have geese on your property that are actively nesting, lasers should not be used from the period that the first egg is laid up until goslings are able to fly (usually from March 15 – August 1). In several studies conducted by USDA Wildlife Services and the Division of Wildlife, the geese never grew accustomed to the laser and always responded immediately. The average harassment time needed before the geese left the area generally decreased with more frequent use of the laser.

Location

Laser harassment is most effective at sites that are used only at night. If the geese are using an area both during the day and evening, laser harassment at night will need to be combined with daytime harassment to cause the geese to leave the area during daylight hours. Small ponds or lakes (<20 ac.) are well-suited to laser harassment. Lasers are not as effective on larger lakes because the harassed birds will often just fly to the other end of the lake. However, if the person conducting the harassment is persistent and relocates so that the laser can reach the birds, the geese will eventually leave the area. Complete access around the lake's perimeter is also helpful so that the person conducting the harassment can get to the birds wherever they are located. The size of the roosting area will be a factor in determining the strength of the laser required. If the roosting area is a small 1/4-acre pond, a small laser pointer from an office supply store may work; however, if the roosting area is large, a laser capable of reaching 100 yards may be necessary. Some people have had success with the \$40 lasers that are sold at hardware stores for hanging pictures on a level plane.



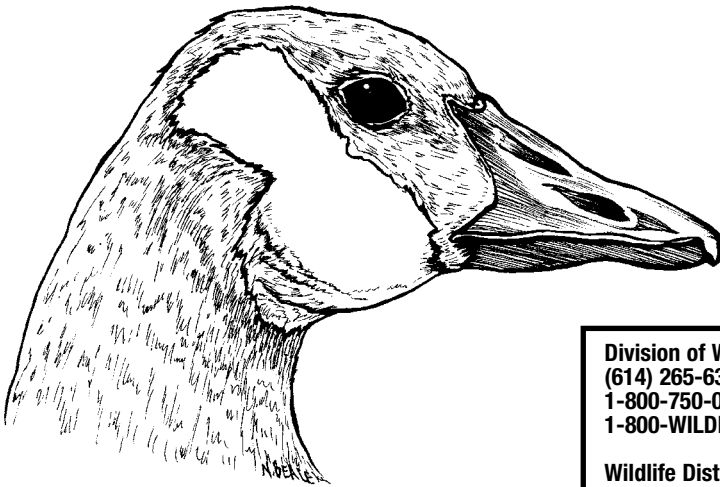
Lasers

Technique

When harassing the geese, start by directing the laser at a point several yards away from the geese, and slowly move the beam towards the geese. The geese see the beam moving toward them and usually take flight before the beam reaches them. If the beam needs to be directed towards the geese, aim it at their chests or sides and not at their eyes. This will avoid possible disorientation of the geese and any possible eye damage. Be aware of any people or houses that are behind the harassment areas so that they are not subjected to the beam reflecting off of the water.

Points to Consider

- Bright ambient lighting near the roosting area will decrease the effectiveness of the laser, and if it is bright enough, may render the laser ineffective.
- The laser is not effective on areas where people feed the geese. The lasers will cause the geese to leave temporarily, but they will return if food is available.
- Lasers are most effective in areas where geese are not exposed to a lot of disturbance.
- No type of harassment or hazing (including the use of a laser) will make geese leave an area if they are actively nesting (have eggs), or if they cannot fly.
- With any method of harassment, being consistent and persistent with the techniques is critical to success.



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