

Division of Wildlife

VISUAL DETERRENENTS



SEEING IS OFTEN BELIEVING FOR GEESE

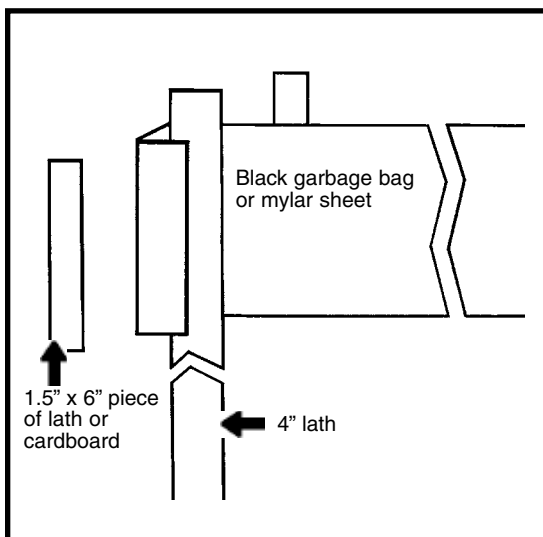
Almost any foreign object placed in a field will initially repel geese. The length of time frightening devices are effective depends on the type, number, and variety of devices used. Regardless of the type, devices should be moved every two to three days to prevent habituation by the geese. Visual repellents should be in place before the start of the damage season (Feb./Mar.) to prevent geese from establishing a use pattern.

Visual repellents, including flags, scarecrows and balloons, should be used at the rate of one to two per acre before geese become accustomed to using the area (Feb./Mar.). More may become necessary as the season progresses. For optimum results, supplement devices with automatic exploders and/or pyrotechnics (See Technical Guidelines Sheet on Pyrotechnics).

FLAGS

Flags can be made by using four foot wooden stakes or laths and 6"x 30" sheets of three mil safety orange plastic or Mylar. Wrap 3 inches of the end of the plastic or Mylar sheet around the stake and staple a piece of cardboard or lath (1.5" x 6") to both sides of the stake, sandwiching the plastic or Mylar between the stake and cardboard to prevent the material from tearing in strong winds.

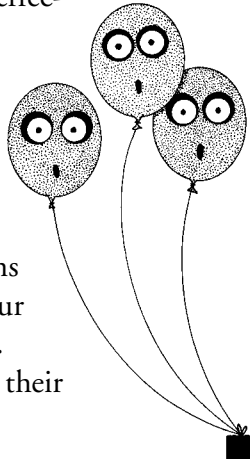
Plain black trash bags tacked onto lath or other wooden stakes can be an effective means at repelling geese from large grass areas or cropfields. Place flags so they are visible by geese from all points within a field. Geese will land in an area where flags are not visible. Once the birds land in a field and begin feeding, the flags' effectiveness may be lost.



Visual Deterrents

BALLOONS

Helium balloons staked in open fields or anchored over water, have proven effective in repelling geese. Tether the balloons with 75 lb. test monofilament line at least 10 feet into the air. The use of balloons larger than two feet in diameter is not recommended due to their increased wind resistance. Balloons should be moved every three to four days to increase their effectiveness. Eyespots on balloons also increase their effectiveness.



MYLAR TAPE

Mylar Tape is a shiny foil-colored tape that comes in rolls approximately 1/2" - 3" wide. Mylar also comes in sheets up to 36" wide. Mylar works by reflecting sunlight, and when wound in a spiral with the bright red and silver coated sides alternating, any movement of the wind will cause the tape to flash brilliantly. This brilliant flashing seems to signal danger to birds. For best results install prior to the damage (nesting) season (Feb./Mar.). If you do not install Mylar tape until after the geese have nested, you are probably just wasting time and money. Irritape is another type of tape similar to Mylar that uses a prism pattern printed in the tape to reflect sunlight in all directions.

Mylar can be installed in many situations.

For example: Start by inserting your fingertips into the cardboard center of the roll as if you were putting on a bracelet. Tie the lead end of the ribbon to the first stake, then play out the ribbon as you walk. This automatically causes the ribbon to spiral as it is being fed out. Take up the slack but not enough to take the spiral out of it. Do this on all areas that border the waters edge.

SCARECROWS

Scarecrows can be made from a variety of materials; however, three features should be incorporated in any scarecrow design: movement, bright colors, and large eyes. For maximum effect, the arms and legs should readily move in the wind. Construction materials should be of bright colors. The brighter the color the better it can be seen. Bright red, blaze orange or safety yellow are recommended. Also, the larger the eyes, the more effective the scarecrow.

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