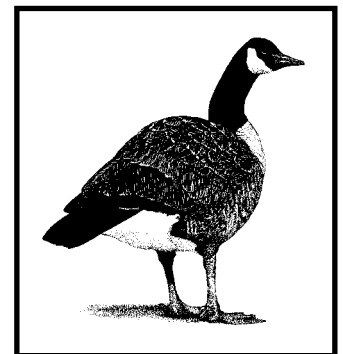


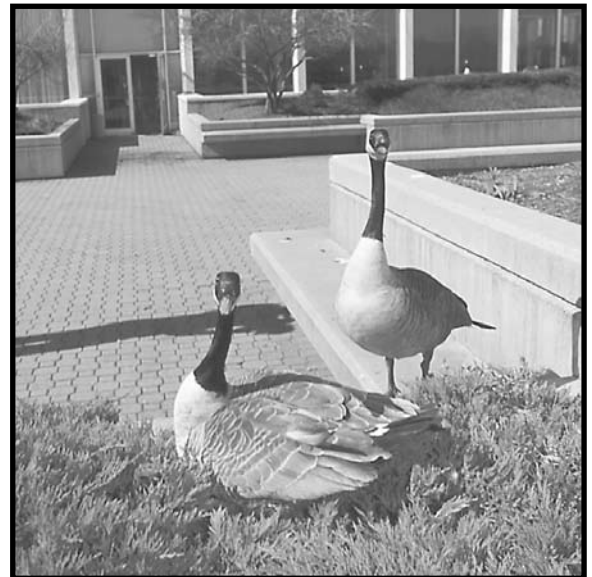
# HABITAT MODIFICATION



## KEEP OFF THE GRASS

Land management is by far the most successful deterrent to goose conflicts. Geese can be discouraged from using an area by making the pond and surrounding area unattractive.

Geese are grazers and rely on grass for the majority of their diet. Geese can be discouraged from using these grass areas by the following methods: 1.) Reduce or eliminate fertilizer applications to the surrounding grass area to make the grass less tasty and nutritious to the geese. 2.) Plant grass species that are less tasty, such as tall fescue (has a bitter taste). 3.) Seed surrounding areas to natural prairie grasses or other tall vegetation. 4.) Above all, **do not allow anyone to feed the geese.**



## Habitat Modification

### MISCELLANEOUS MODIFICATIONS

- *Pond aerators should be shut off in the winter. Allow the pond to freeze. Open water only encourages geese to stay and is an attractant to other geese.*
- *Geese tend to stay away from areas with brushy edges or thick cover that hides predators. Dense plantings around feeding areas and tall trees in flight paths will deter geese from using these areas*

### KEEP GEESE IN THE POND

Geese generally will not use a pond if they cannot easily fly in to it, swim in it, or walk out of it. Placing ornamental grasses or a row of densely planted shrubs around the edge of a pond is pleasing to the eye and will effectively deter geese from coming on shore. Replacing grass areas around ponds with unpalatable ground-covers (e.g., periwinkle, Japanese pachysandra and English Ivy) can also be a good deterrent. Construct new ponds with an 18-24" inch vertical bank at the water's edge.

Discourage geese from using existing ponds by vertically straightening the banks. Placing large boulders or rip-rap along the edge of a pond makes it more difficult, but not impossible for geese to enter and exit the water.

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