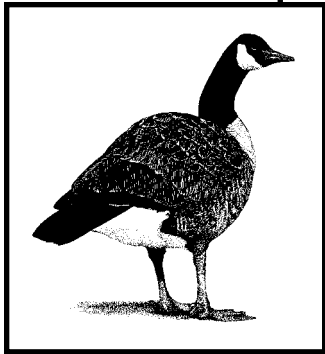
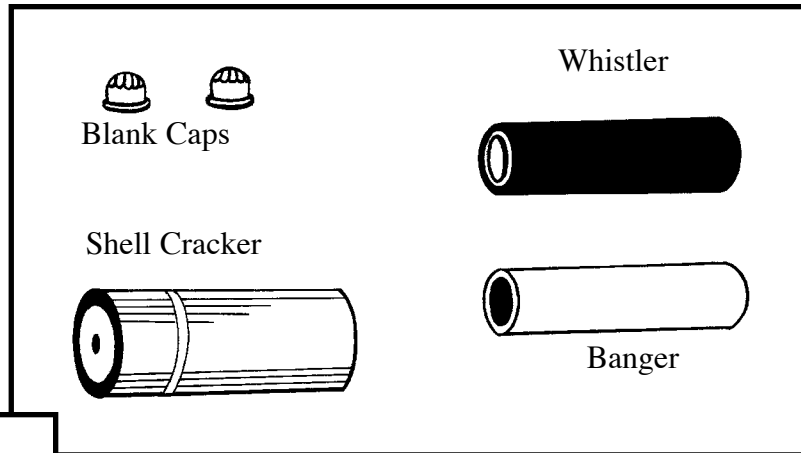


Division of Wildlife

PYROTECHNICS



WHAT ARE PYROTECHNICS?

Pyrotechnics are specialized fireworks that are shot out of a 12-gauge shotgun or a starter's pistol. There are three basic types of pyrotechnics: screamers, bangers, and shell crackers.

For best results, begin harassment early in the season (Feb./Mar.) and during dusk or early evening when the birds begin to congregate in numbers. Harassment at this time will disperse the birds before they roost for the night and become accustomed to the area. **Pyrotechnics will only work prior to nesting and again after young geese have learned to fly.** Using pyrotechnics between those times will not drive the geese away.

Do not overuse pyrotechnics because wildlife can become accustomed to the persistent noise. It is advised to wait until several birds are present before using pyrotechnics. Many times congregated birds must be harassed for several days, even weeks, before any results will be seen. Be persistent and you will succeed.

Obey local laws and noise ordinances. It is advised to contact local law enforcement officials before using pyrotechnics.

TYPES OF PYROTECHNICS

Screamers and bangers are shot out of a starter's pistol and travel about 75 to 100 feet. Screamers are like bottle rockets, producing a high shrill and leaving a trail of smoke. Bangers produce a loud bang equivalent to a 60mm firecracker.

Shell crackers are shot out of a 12-gauge shotgun and travel about 200 feet before exploding. It is advised that an inexpensive single-shot shotgun that breaks and loads at the breech be used. This is to allow for inspection of the barrel after each shot (shell crackers can lodge in the barrel) and ease of cleaning after use as shell crackers leave corrosive residue in the barrel. It is also important that an open choke (improved cylinder or less) be used as opposed to a tight choke (full or modified). This will ensure there is no restriction when the shell cracker exits the barrel.



Pyrotechnics

SAFETY

- 1.) Always wear safety eye glasses and hearing protection when using pyrotechnics.
- 2.) Check the firearm barrel for blockage after each shot. It is advised to run a cleaning rod with a bore brush through the shotgun barrel after every fifth shot when using shell crackers.
- 3.) Be aware of possible fire hazards. Never fire pyrotechnics where smoldering debris may fall in dry grass or on building roofs. Keep a fire extinguisher handy at all times.
- 4.) Never fire pyrotechnics into strong winds. Be aware of wind direction and use it to your advantage.
- 5.) Pyrotechnics should be launched from a 45 degree angle to the horizon.
- 6.) If you do not hear or see the pyrotechnic explode, do not look down either end of the firearm. Keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction and be prepared for a delayed firing. Wait at least one minute. If the pyrotechnic does not explode, keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction and then eject the shell from the gun. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for disposing of the unfired shell (i.e., water deluge).
- 7.) While using pyrotechnics at airports, never fire pyrotechnics in a manner that debris might fall on runways and taxiways and possibly be ingested by jet engines.
- 8.) Abide by local laws and inform law enforcement officials before using pyrotechnics.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *ALWAYS make SAFETY your number one priority*
- *DO NOT aim pyrotechnics directly at the geese*
- *Be considerate of your neighbors when using pyrotechnics*
- *When combined with legal hunting, pyrotechnics work extremely well*

