



## Bird Damage Management in New Jersey

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife  
Services

140C Locust  
Grove Road,  
Pittstown, NJ  
08867

(908) 735-5654  
(908) 735-0821  
Fax

The *Wildlife Damage Management Technical Series* provides information on management, biology and legal status. Below are links and information which are not available in the but are *Wildlife Damage Management Technical Series* specific to managing birds in New Jersey. The use of an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program which includes the use of multiple techniques is highly recommended. There is no single solution.

- **No feeding** - Intentional and unintentional feeding should be discontinued (e.g., feeding of wildlife and feral cats, uncovered trash receptacles, access to pet/livestock food or songbird feeders). In addition, no feeding of waterfowl and wildlife should be enforced on public property as well as at housing associations through adoption of ordinances/by-laws, signage and education.
- **Propane cannon** - A permit must be obtained from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW) for use in agricultural setting. Contact a local Wildlife Conservation Police Officer.
- **Pyrotechnics** - Some types of pyrotechnics require a permit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to purchase. Other types do not require a permit to purchase; consult with the merchant on ATF permitting. Additionally, follow local noise ordinances as well as safety and storage guidelines found at: [https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA\\_pest\\_control\\_pyro.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA_pest_control_pyro.pdf).
- **Drone or remote-controlled aircraft** - In New Jersey, drones or remote-controlled aircraft may not be used to harass any wildlife.
- **Lasers** - Illegal to aim at an aircraft; follow safety precautions.
- **Permits** - All migratory bird species and their eggs are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Harassment techniques, that do not make contact with the bird or causes injury to the bird, do not require permits unless it is an Endangered or Threatened Species. Permits are required for handling, possessing, lethally controlling birds or removing nests with eggs. The type of permit(s) required will depend on the species:
  - Non-migratory bird species like mute swans, wild turkeys, and pigeons may still be protected by State regulations. State permits would be required to manage these species.
  - Blackbirds when causing damage can be lethally removed using humane methods without any permits in accordance with Depredation Order 50 CFR 21.43. However, take must be reported to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) annually at <https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2436.pdf>.
  - Canada geese
    - Landowners may apply for a year-round Federal Depredation Permit issued by USFWS. The permit application processing fee is \$100 for businesses, \$50 for homeowners, and government agencies are fee exempt.
    - Landowners seeking to addle eggs must register their property at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/> in accordance with Depredation Order 50 CFR 21.50.
    - Agricultural producers may apply for a free permit from NJDFW to control geese between May 1 and August 31 by calling (908) 735-8793. If a current

Federal Depredation Permit is in place, no State-issued permit is required for Canada geese.

- Domestic geese and ducks can be handled or lethally removed using humane methods without permits.
- All other species will require both a Federal and State Depredation Permit.
- Shooting - local regulations on firearm discharge and State regulations on firearm safety zones must be followed. Information on safety zones can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/pdf/safetyzone.pdf>.
- Trapping - Foot-hold traps are illegal in New Jersey and may not be used for trapping.

## Helpful Links

No Feeding: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/sa\\_program\\_overview/ct\\_dontfeedwildlife](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/sa_program_overview/ct_dontfeedwildlife)

Canada Goose Nest/Egg Management Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CLIL-381Lw>

Vulture Effigies Guidelines: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwrc/research/invasive\\_wildlife/content/VultureEffigyGuidelines-Mar2010.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/research/invasive_wildlife/content/VultureEffigyGuidelines-Mar2010.pdf)

Federal Depredation Permit: [3-200-13 - Migratory Bird – Depredation \(servicenowservices.com\)](https://www.servicenowservices.com/3-200-13-Migratory-Bird-Depredation)

NJ Depredation Control Permit Application: [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/xotic\\_depredationapp.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/xotic_depredationapp.pdf)