

## **Wildlife Damage Management Outreach and Research Activities, NYS IPM Program, 2018**

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The management of wild vertebrates in pest situations is an increasing concern. NYS IPM Program staff were involved in numerous activities in 2018.

### Bird damage management options in corn production

Sweet corn can be heavily damaged by feeding birds, NYS IPM Program staff have been involved in multi-year field trials evaluating several techniques to reduce damage. Details of the project are given in a separate report. Important conclusions were that management techniques are best implemented before damage begins, and success of the four deterrence techniques (vinyl predator-mimic balloons, air dancers, methyl anthranilate repellent, and detasseling) was highly dependent on timing, placement, and crop maturity.

Corn crops can also be damaged by birds pulling out seedlings to feed upon the seed. NYS IPM Program staff conducted research on efficacy of planting seed treated with a bird repellent to reduce damage. In this two-year, statewide project, use of the treated seed was shown to reduce bird damage. Details of the project are given in a separate report.

### Private sector wildlife biologists symposium

NYS IPM Program staff developed and facilitated a symposium, "Private sector wildlife biologists and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation," for the 2018 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society, October 8 - 11 in Cleveland. Following is the abstract of the symposium:

The historical development of wildlife conservation in the United States and Canada has been summarized in the seven points of what is often referred to as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (the Model). Associated with the Model is the public trust doctrine (PTD). Wildlife is considered "owned" by the public with government responsibility for stewardship of those resources. The profession of wildlife biology has thus centered on government agencies as the primary source of wildlife management activities, with academia providing supporting roles in research and education. Biologists working within the private sector, both non-profit and for-profit, are often overlooked during discussions of the Model and public trust responsibilities. However, private-sector biologists have existed since the genesis of the profession, and with the advent of societal/legal changes such as the National Environmental Policy Act and increasing human-wildlife conflicts, numbers of private-sector professionals have increased. A recent survey of the current TWS membership records indicates that there

are about as many members within the private sector as there are in federal agencies. About one third of the members who are Certified Wildlife Biologists work within the private sector, most with the for-profit realm. In this symposium, we featured professionals from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives and discussed what it means to be a wildlife professional within the private sector, especially in relationship to the PTD.

Educational presentations:

Date	Title and type of presentation	Location (town/county—if multi-county, list county location first)	Audience (growers, school staff, etc.)	# people
1/25/18	Dealing With Critters in the Landscape (Turf, Plant & Tree Conference, Nassau Suffolk Landscape Grounds Assoc.)	Brentwood/Suffolk	Landscapers	60
3/19/18	Site Specific Management of Nuisance Geese on School Properties: A Case Study from New York State (9 <sup>th</sup> International IPM Symposium)	Baltimore/Maryland	IPM educators, regulators, & stakeholders	
7/18/18	Dealing with Critters in the Landscape (Nuisance Wildlife Management & Design Strategies for the Ornamental Landscape, CCE of Suffolk Co.)	Shirley/Suffolk	Landscapers	50
10/11/18	Welcome and Overview – the History and Status of Wildlife Professionals in the Private Sector (25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society)	Cleveland/Ohio	Wildlife biologists	40

Writing projects:

- The main draft of a revision of the publication *Beasts Begone!* <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/43861> was finished and will be refined and published in 2019.
- Braband, L. Everything Wants to Prepare for Winter; NYS IPM Program blog; NYS IPM; December 7, 2018; Web; Accessed January 30, 2019. <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/2018/12/07/everything-wants-to-prepare-for-winter-2/>
- Potential publications: article based on the geese of school grounds project for the *Journal of IPM*; article based on the private wildlife biologists symposium for *The Wildlife Professionals*.

Other:

A NYS IPM Program staff member serves on the board of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society and the Wildlife Committee of the National Pest Management Association.

Upon request, NYS IPM Program staff conducted an on-site consultation for a nuisance bird situation at a carpet retail store.

NYS IPM Program staff responded to phone calls, e-mails, and office visits for questions involving bats, bat houses, bat exclusion, chipmunks, voles, moles, opossums, geese, goose repellents, snakes, deer, rats, rodent clean-up, beavers, cormorants, muskrats, mallards, woodchucks, trapping at schools, woodpeckers, and squirrels.