

Wildlife Damage Management Outreach and Research Activities, NYS IPM Program, 2014 & 2015

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The management of wild vertebrates in pest situations is an increasing concern. NYS IPM Program staff was involved in numerous activities in 2014 and 2015.

Nuisance geese demonstration project and outreach

Although beautiful in flight and valued as a symbol of the wild, Canada Geese frequenting school athletic fields are a growing concern. New York State Districts who completed an IPM survey in 2001 and 2013 reported nearly a doubling in concern over geese as a pest (Braband 2015). Geese were the only pest problem that showed a significant statistical increase between these two surveys. Due to changes in habitat and changing habits of these animals, it is likely that this problem will grow.

Geese on school grounds are not the typical rodent or insect pest and require unique management. In addition, there are limitations to what can be done, due to their protected status under an international bird treaty. This problem is not limited to school grounds, but has been experienced across NY by many communities - urban, suburban and rural.

In November, 2014, Suzanne Wheatcraft, H&S officer with the Rochester CSD, contacted me about a long term goose problem at the athletic field complex of Edison Technical HS. We made a site visit, interacting with the district and school groundskeepers and athletic directors. We worked with the district and Edison Tech to hold a goose on school grounds seminar at Edison Tech on February 20. Upon request from DCMO BOCES, a similar seminar was held in Norwich, NY on March 13 and another one was organized with Questar III BOCES in Rensselaer Co. on August 4. Suzanne and I successfully applied for a Community IPM grant to address the goose situation at Edison. The Webster CSD has joined us in this project. School personnel have been trying various harassment techniques at Edison and Webster. Technique efficacy is not the only important aspect. The technique must also fit into the desires and workday of school staff. To date, Webster prefers using a radio-controlled model truck while Edison favors an air dancer (see attached photo). We have begun developing community collaboration in the vicinity of Edison to address limiting goose production. We anticipate organizing public meetings for this during the winter.

Reference: Braband, L. 2015. Pest Management Practices; A Survey of Public School Districts in New York State.

http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/school_survey/school_survey2013.pdf

Educational presentations:

Date	Title and type of presentation	Location (town/county— if multi-county, list county location first)	Audience (growers, school staff, etc.)	# people
3/6/14	Wildlife Damage Management (Wildlife Management Class, FLCC)	Canandaigua/Ontario	College students	19
4/5/14	Relevance of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to Nuisance Wildlife Control (15 th Annual Northeast Wildlife Management Seminar, NYS Wildlife Management Association)	Cobleskill/Schoharie	Nuisance wildlife control operators	30
4/14/14	A Snapshot of the Status of the Nuisance Wildlife Control Industry (Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference)	Portland/Maine	Wildlife biologists	35
10/14/14	Wildlife Damage Management (Wildlife Management Class, FLCC)	Canandaigua/Ontario	College students	18
10/23/14	Wildlife Control Regulations & Implications for pest Management Professionals	Lake Buena Vista/ Florida	Structural pest control operators	30
2/3/15	Bird Management for Food Facilities (Food Processing Sanitation & Pest Management Workshop, PMP)	Rochester/Monroe	Food facility staff & structural pest control operators	115
2/20/15	Seminar on Goose Problems on School Grounds & Athletic Fields (NYS IPM Program & Rochester CSD)	Rochester/Monroe	School facilities staff	12
2/24/15	Bird Control at Schools (US EPA)	Webinar	School facilities staff	160
3/10/15	Wildlife Damage Management (Wildlife Management Class, FLCC)	Canandaigua/Ontario	College students	10
3/13/15	Seminar on Goose Problems on School Grounds & Athletic Fields (NYS IPM Program & DCMO BOCES)	Norwich/Chenango	School facilities staff	12
3/24/15	Increasing Connections between IPM & Wildlife Damage Management (International IPM Symposium session)	Salt Lake City/Utah	IPM facilitators & implementers	40
3/28/15	History of the NYSWMA (16 th Annual Northeast Wildlife Management Seminar, NYSWMA)	East Syracuse/Onondaga	Nuisance wildlife control operators	35
4/21/15	Managing Stinging Insects & Geese on School Grounds (School IPM Workshop, NYS IPM Program & Wayne-FL BOCES)	Canandaigua/Ontario	School facilities staff	15
6/19/15	Dealing with Geese and Gulls around Schools	Syracuse/Onondaga	School facilities staff	15

	(Oswego Chap. NYS School Facilities Managers Assoc.)			
8/4/15	Seminar on Goose Problems on School Grounds & Athletic Fields (NYS IPM Program & Questar III BOCES)	Castle-On-Hudson/Rensselaer	School facilities staff	15
12/11/15	Geese on School Grounds (Cornell Turf Team meeting)	Geneva/Ontario	College faculty	10

Writing projects:

- The editor of journal, *Human-Wildlife Interactions*, asked Lynn Braband to serve as a temporary associate editor to coordinate the publication of the presentations given at the International IPM Symposium session that he organized, "Increasing connections between IPM and wildlife damage management." He also wrote the introduction to the session:
Braband, L. 2015. Parallel universes? Increasing connections between IPM and wildlife damage management. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 9(2): 154-155.
- Lynn Braband also published an article in the newsletter of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society on the panel discussion associated with the IPM/WDM session at the IPM symposium:
Braband, L. 2015. Are current integrated pest management and wildlife damage management connections sufficient? A panel discussion. *Interactions; Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group* 21(4): 4-5.
- Lynn Braband. senior author of chapters on House Sparrows and Rock Pigeons in the next edition of *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage*, University of Nebraska.
- Lynn Braband was interviewed by a writer for the trade magazine *Pest Control Technology* concerning bird management in food facilities. The interview was published in the November 2014 issue.
- Braband, L. Everything Wants to Prepare for Winter. NYS IPM Program. Cornell University. September 1, 2015. Web. Accessed: 10/9/15.
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/2015/09/01/everything-wants-to-prepare-for-winter/>

Other:

NYS IPM Program staff organized a session, "Increasing connections between IPM and wildlife damage management" for the Eighth International IPM Symposium, held during March 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Several invited presentations were made followed by a panel discussion of the authors with the audience. The presentation titles were:

- Parallel universes? Increasing connections between IPM and wildlife damage management.
- Thank goodness they got all the dragons: Wildlife damage management through the ages.
- How wildlife damage management intersects with and is different from other IPM.
- Recent collaborations: Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management, National Wildlife Control Training Program & Master Gardener Training.
- Wildlife damage management in the digital age: Collaborating with others to spread the message.

NYS IPM Program staff reviewed the bird section for the update of the national school IPM strategic plan
http://ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2020/SCHOOL_IPM_2020_V3_070615.pdf