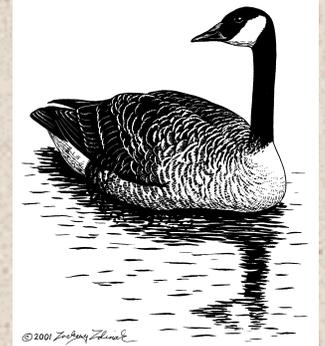


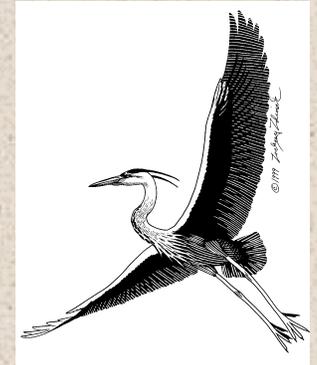
Living With Wildlife in Brookline &



Wildlife Management

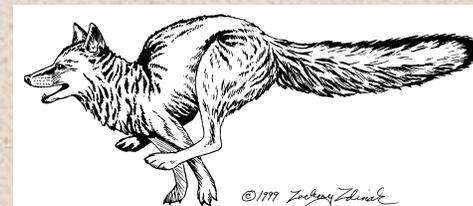
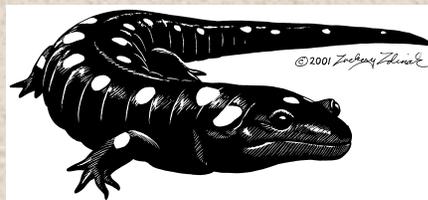
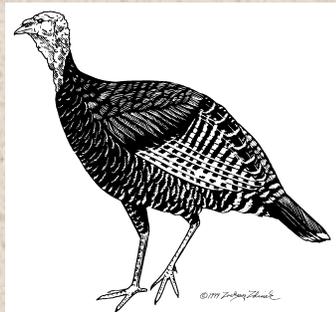


TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts



Parks & Open Space Division

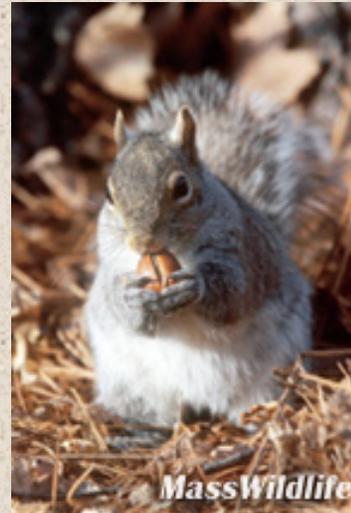
Erin Chute Gallentine, Director



WILDLIFE OUTLINE

- Who lives here?
- Where did the wildlife come from?
- What are the impacts of wildlife?
- How is the Parks and Open Space Division helping with “nuisance” wildlife?
- How can you help?

Who lives here?



& Many other birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, etc.

Where did the wildlife come from?

- A wide variety of wildlife has always lived in the Brookline area
- Urban and suburban areas attract some wildlife (easy food sources in trash or gardens; easy nesting spots under porches & sheds, in attics, etc.; sometimes less competition with other animals)
- Some wildlife were introduced; for example “resident” or non-migratory geese are descendants of captive hunting stocks and introductions earlier this century, and populations have grown substantially due to human intervention

What are the impacts of wildlife?

- Wildlife viewing can be exciting and can enhance the experience of park visitors
- Healthy wildlife populations are an important part of the natural ecosystem
- “Nuisance” wildlife may bother park visitors and homeowners with aggressive behavior, noise, feces and property damage

How is the Parks and Open Space
Division helping with
“nuisance” wildlife?





Canada Geese (1)



- Population Stabilization
 - Each year the Town obtains a permit from Mass Fish and Wildlife to oil or addle eggs to prevent development
 - This humane method has had positive results
- Landscaping
 - Strategic plantings around water bodies appear to be a hiding place for predators & deter geese



Canada Geese (2)

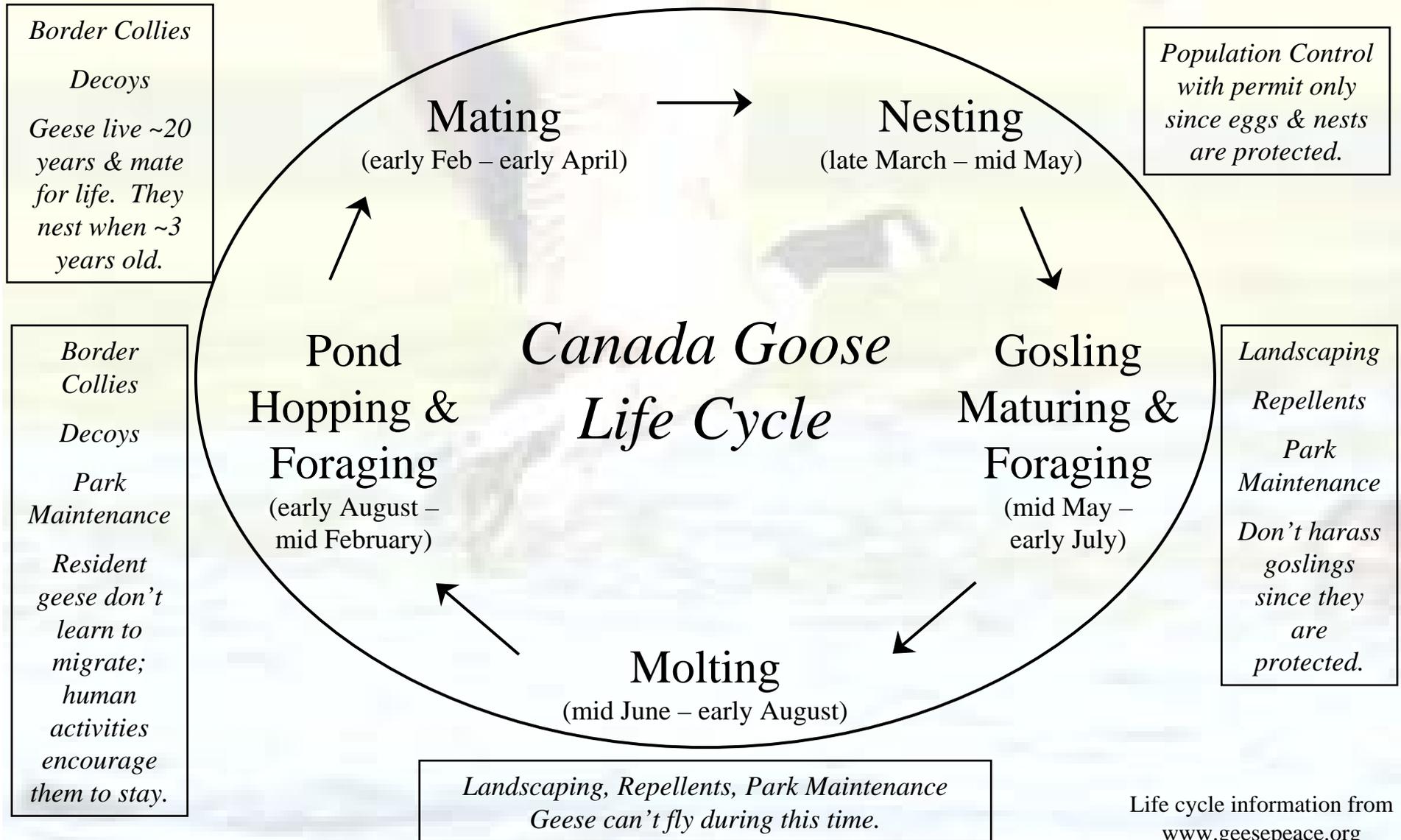


- Repellents/Exclusion Strategies
 - Non-toxic grapeseed extract discourages geese from eating grass
 - Cardboard or plastic coyote decoys scare geese
 - Trained border collies harass geese so they leave an area; geese are not harmed and other birds are not targeted
- Town-wide No Feed Policy – feeding waterfowl is prohibited in Brookline

Canada Geese (3)

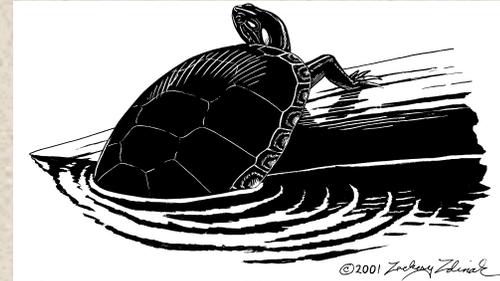
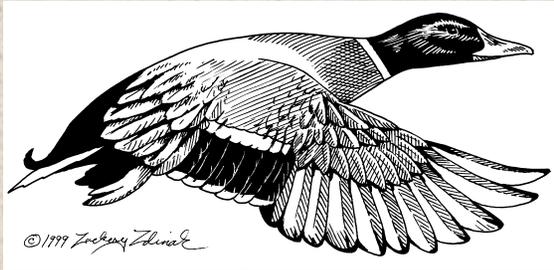
- Park Maintenance and Cleaning
 - Routine inspections identify problem areas such as paths, where feces are removed, though large numbers makes this a constant challenge
 - Though no direct links have been found between feces and illness, use caution and avoid contact
- Monitoring/Education
 - Park Rangers and our Environmental Educator help educate the public about problems & solutions
 - Brochures and signage help spread the word

Wildlife knowledge informs management & helps park users understand behavior



Other Nuisance Animals

- The Division is always alert for the presence of other nuisance wildlife, to assist where possible and to educate the public.
- Some recent sightings/complaints include turkeys, coyotes, bats and skunks.
- Federal and state laws prohibit the harming or relocation of most wildlife, including mammals, birds and others. In rare cases, an aggressive animal may be removed, but only by a State permitted Problem Animal Control Agent.
- The Parks Division or the Animal Control Officer can assist with removal of deceased wildlife.
- The Health Department tests wildlife for diseases such as rabies or West Nile virus when appropriate.



How Can You Help?



Please DO NOT FEED wildlife

- This includes **all** wildlife
(geese, ducks, turkeys, squirrels, chipmunks, etc.)
- Wildlife do not need our help to obtain food
- Human food is almost always unhealthy for wildlife
- Populations may expand beyond what the natural environment can support, potentially leading to stressed animals, as well as the spread of disease
- Feeding can encourage wildlife to stay and concentrate in certain areas, often creating a nuisance for humans
- Feeding changes the natural foraging or hunting behavior and can lead to conflicts between animals over food, and aggression towards humans

Please DO NOT FEED wildlife

- Feeding wildlife ultimately hurts wildlife, the environment, and the community
 - Diseases may spread to other animals (this has been documented in scientific studies of birds and mammals)
 - Water quality may decrease from waterfowl feces
 - Park condition may decrease from feces, grazing and the presence of many birds or other animals
 - Park user experience is compromised by nuisance or aggressive animals
 - Neighborhoods may be impacted by animals seeking more food; homes may be infested
- Instead, you can protect natural food sources such as native plants, flowers, berries, nuts and water sources



What about bird feeders?



- Minimize bird feeders, decrease food or remove feeders during spring and summer when natural food sources are abundant
- Select appropriate types of feeders and food
 - Consider that seeds may fall out of open feeders and attract undesired wildlife visitors
 - Research and select foods, feeders and locations that will attract and benefit desirable birds
- Consider landscaping and select native plantings to attract desirable birds instead of many feeders

What about protecting desirable waterfowl?

- Many people enjoy waterfowl, particularly ducks and swans
- Waterfowl do not generally need our help to survive, even in winter
- Ducks & swans have many useful adaptations/behaviors
 - Specialized bills to find, collect & eat food in water or on land
 - Many different types of feathers for warmth, water resistance, efficient flight and attracting mates
 - The ability to navigate and migrate to wintering grounds
- Protecting and preserving natural habitat is one of the best ways to protect desirable waterfowl
- Visit Ducks Unlimited (www.ducks.org) for information on duck biology and conservation efforts

Respect wildlife & keep your distance

- Don't move eggs or nests
 - Federal and state laws prohibit tampering with them
 - This will **not** necessarily cause an animal to leave or to stop laying eggs
- Don't approach or "rescue" baby animals
 - Adults are usually nearby and may defend aggressively
 - You may unintentionally harm the animals; call our Animal Control Officer instead
- Don't try to touch or pet wildlife
 - You may provoke an attack
 - You may stress the animal unnecessarily

Deter nuisance wildlife appropriately

- Be assertive and bold
 - Most animals will avoid loud noises, bright lights, etc.
 - Scare or threaten animals, but don't hurt them
 - Note that hunting is not allowed in Brookline
 - If an animal does not back down or move, avoid them!
- Secure your trash
- Close off crawl spaces and holes in your home
- Keep your pets safe and leashed, and don't feed them outdoors

Other Tips

- Educate your friend and neighbors
- For more information, contact:
 - Parks and Open Space Division, 730-2088
 - Animal Control Officer/Police Dept., 730-2222
 - MassWildlife, www.masswildlife.org

