

Beak Speak

A publication of **Flock Fighters USA**

Autumn, 2008



Upcoming Events

October 22-25
75th Annual PestWorld Convention and Exhibition
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center
Washington, DC
Visit Jeff at the AVIHAZE booth!
Booth #

Did you know?

- In 1950, there were less than 100 total non-migratory Canada Geese in the world; now there are 40-80 million in North America.
- At sexual maturity, about two years of age, geese will return to the same lake where they first learned to fly, mate and establish a nesting territory.
- Geese can lay up to 12 eggs and nests have been found with over 32 eggs.

Flock Fighters USA Introduces AVIHAZE

FF USA has become a national distributor for the AviHaze System. This fogging method delivers RejeX-it Fog Force in a colorless mist with droplet sizes which insure no residues. It is fully automatic and allows applications to be controlled in both length of release as well as span of interval.

AviHaze runs silently on compressed air and therefore requires no special wiring or customized platforms. It's size allows for simple reorientation of the units, should operations require it.

The AviHaze System is the lowest cost fogging system currently available anywhere. It can be installed and operated by in-house staff.

All products can be purchased from Flock Fighters USA, or go to www.flockfighters.com for more information.

Fall Goose Control

The Presence of Geese

The exponential growth of non-migratory geese is a testimony to the theory of habitat development and wildlife response. The construction of millions of acres of ponds and lakes, and the planting of lawns with blue and rye grass is primarily responsible. The detention pond in every subdivision, corporate office park, and municipal recreation area is in reality a "goose farm".

Geese look to all available sites within a 50 square mile area "home range", and evaluate it based on three behavior needs: water/feeding options, breeding/nesting locations, and relative safety/ease of access. Site design alterations can produce change in goose focus, but if the site can't be modified, then the use of repellents is an excellent and viable way of gaining control of nuisance birds.

Aside from dirtying the turf, goose manure has other unpleasant effects, including the pollution of water features. Manure feeds algae and other bacterial organisms creating water quality issues and creating new vectors for human disease.

The number #1 Goose control action

Turf applied repellents are the simplest method of inhibiting goose presence on turf. Pro-active repellents can effectively and efficiently remove geese off the whole site.

Migrate Turf Repellent is a feeding aversion agent for geese. It's the best of modern chemistry. Migrate is a micro-encapsulated product that should be mixed with water and sprayed onto grass. When Migrate is applied, it will be evident in the behavior of birds; they stop feeding and move to another site. Since a single goose produces about 3 pounds of manure a day, Migrate creates dramatic benefits.

Another strategy is to create a fog of goose repellent. Since 1998, there has been no goose aversion technology more proven and preferred than fogging with Rejex-it Fog Force. It allows one to go "on the offensive" with the geese, and in most cases, expels them in 4-5 days. This short term advantage gives the property owner real relief immediately. Fogging with a thermal fogger allows one to attack the birds at the water feature.

For most sites, after the initial capital investment, product usage is below \$20/acre/year.

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FLOCK FIGHTERS

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'the nation's leader in chemical bird aversion'

**We're on the web!
Check us out at
www.flockfighters.com**

Got deer? This large mammal has become epidemic in many suburban sites destroying landscapes. Flock Fighters USA is a leading distributor of Deer Guard. Proven in the field to be the #1 deer repellent. Easy spray application with no nasty smell; just apply to target plants and the deer won't eat. One treatment is good for the whole winter! Call us for prices and literature.

Winter Roosting Birds America's #1 "Threat"

With the coming of Autumn, bird behaviors change . . . and for many, it is for the worst. With the pressure of nesting gone and the prospect of winter ahead, many species of birds "group" in winter flocking behavior. Three main reasons produce this experience:

- The new fledglings swell existing populations and emulate their parents as they build their learning curve.
- Due to ingrained gregarious behavior, it is the natural expectation for the species to congregate together (The reason decoys work for bird hunters is simple, "birds draw birds!").
- Many man-made structures and features (any place that is warm and protected from the elements, like bridges, heating ducts and overhangs) will induce birds to focus and settle there.

Pigeons – The average breeding pair can produce 4 -8 eggs each year. This means that the 2 adults that frequent your loading dock, ledge, or window-sill in March could be 8 -10 birds in October! Those 8-10 birds will drop over 10 lbs of manure each week! In addition, it is common for multiple family-groups to congregate together— Flocks of 30+ are common in urban landscapes. Pigeons are the ultimate urban creature, able to survive almost anywhere.

Sparrows – These birds are typically home-bodies. They seldom venture more than a ¼ mile from their nest and can lay an egg every 30 days. The year-round mess is far more consistent than with other birds, but can be multiplied by 3X in November.

Starlings/Grackles – Probably no other northern bird species (starlings in the north, grackles in the south) has the potential to produce more mess than a flock of starlings or grackles. Their roosting behavior creates a "night time roost", where the group spends all night in a one area, and the results are graphic: 500 starlings/grackles drop 2000 lbs of manure per month.

Crows/Ravens – The flock (called a "murder") is communal year-round and nests together in a rookery all summer. The rest of the year, they spend nights together in the roost. Big birds in a big group means a big mess.

Sea Gulls – These Gulls are communal year around, but seek heat sources like flat asphalt roofs. Not only is their manure terrible, but by habit the birds also regurgitate undigested food adding to the mess.

Canada Geese – These birds always congregate in larger gaggles (groups of geese) as the weather cools. Each goose drops 2-3 pounds of manure per day, which means that a population of 25 geese leaves over one ton of droppings each month!