



Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard and Wildlife Management Consultants

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10 May 2010

Mr. Charles Lovell

USDA- Wildlife Services

Re: Madison Wisconsin Goose Roundup

Mr. Lovell:

I'm very glad to hear you are on the case for mitigating the goose problem around the Madison WI Airport (Truax Field). I have been aware for some time now of the burgeoning resident Canada Goose population in the Madison area that mirrors the issue nearly nationwide. This population poses a significant potential hazard to both civil and military aviation at the airport as directly evidenced by the fact that several geese tagged in the surrounding community have been reported and removed from the airport property over the last year. There are other problems such as health issues, nuisances, and maintenance costs associated with these birds that are also attributed to this growing population. These are situations that will only continue to grow if not dealt with before the goose populations becomes unmanageable. Resident goose populations not only expand exponentially over time, but also serve to attract additional migratory birds during both spring and fall. We simply cannot accept the potential consequences such as that of US Airways Flight 1549 that made an emergency crash landing in the Hudson River in New York last year after striking Canada Geese. A number of mitigation techniques such as habitat management and active harassment can be employed, but these cannot effectively reduce the local population without also removing some of the birds. Unfortunately, lethal methods, while always the method of last resort must be used in such situations. The best and most humane way to do so is to conduct a roundup during their summer flightless period before fledgling birds are added to the population. I strongly support the USDA's effort to do so within the guidelines set forth by federal and state depredation regulations and hopefully with the support of the Madison community.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or support and feel free to contact me if so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell P. DeFusco".

Russell P. DeFusco, PhD, USAF (ret)