US Issues Permits to Kill 7,200 Canada Geese and 3,500 Other Birds on Long Island and across NY State

1,250 Canada geese at LI state parks, 300 geese at Old Westbury Gardens, 200 geese at 1111 Marcus Ave., 100 geese at Colonial Springs Golf Course, E Farmingdale, 75 geese at SUNY Stony Brook, 70 at Fisher's Island Golf Course, etc.

see Planet-in-Peril.org for Petitions & More Information

7/2/13 – We obtained Federal permits revealing permission to kill thousands of protected birds across NY state and on Long Island that were previously undisclosed despite the massive public attention to the since-cancelled goose roundup planned in the Town of North Hempstead in May.

Besides the Canada geese permits, others permits given to the US Department of Agriculture “Wildlife Services” agency allow the killing of 3,500 other birds in 90 species in New York, including mallard ducks, egrets, osprey, owls, woodpeckers, sparrows, cardinals etc. (details at Planet-in-Peril.org.)

Long Island State Parks listed in the geese-killing permits include Hempstead Lake, Bethpage, Caleb Smith, Connetquot, Caumsett, Heckscher, Jones Beach, Sunken Meadow, Belmont Lake, Bayard Arboretum, and the Wantagh, Meadowbrook, and Northern State parkways. (State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, Regional HQ, Tel. (631) 669-1000).

State officials have claimed to News12 that they have no “present” plans to kill any birds, but they refuse to guarantee that will not change or agree to inform the public if it does. They have however acknowledged that killings are still being contemplated at the massive forest-lined lake at Hempstead Lake State Park.

Some of the other current Canada-geese killing permits are held by: Colonial Springs Golf Course, E Farmingdale (100 geese) Tel (631) 643-1050; Swan Lake Golf Course, Manorville (40 geese) Tel. (631) 369-1818; Fisher's Island Golf Course, Fishers Island LI, (70 geese) Tel (631) 788-7221, Rechler Equity Mgmt. in Melville.

HELP stop the killings. At Planet-in-Peril.org are links to two online petitions to Governor Cuomo. Call and write your state and federal legislators. The largest potential roundups here are conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services agency. Also let the individual permit holders listed here and on the website know if you oppose their proposed killings.
Why it is *futile* and *inhumane* to kill the geese and other birds:

1. There are far more humane alternatives to killing. As shown in the Town of North Hempstead, the Villages of Scarsdale and Mamaroneck in May, the public opposes wildlife killing when sensible non-lethal alternatives exist to keep parks clean and geese away. (Cleaning machines are available, landscaping can be modified to discourage the geese, and far more people tolerate them than want to see them killed.)

2. It doesn't solve the problem. “Nature abhors a vacuum.” Geese or other birds will always come back when the habitat is there for them. Geese have been here for thousands of years, and will not go away unless they are all wiped out, which is not what is a practical, reasonable, or humane option.

3. Aviation safety is not improved by killing geese. As researched and substantiated by the major animal protection group GoosewatchNYC.com, geese account for only 5% of bird strikes to airplanes, most strikes are highly survivable, and most strikes involve migrating birds high in the sky, not resident ones. GoosewatchNYC and other groups held a press conference last week in New York City and heard from a retired FAA safety expert who supported their arguments.

4. The process of killing is torturous. Killing geese involves shotguns or suffocation; these birds dive underwater and need less oxygen, so they may require over 15 minutes of oxygen deprivation to suffocate; it is slow and painful. Other techniques to kill the birds -- like owls, osprey, ravens, cardinals, and sparrow -- include poisoning and lethal traps.


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