

## Canada Geese eggs management 2009-2011

Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust (**BHCCAT**) works in partnership with, among others, Manchester City Council (**MCC**) the landowner of Boggart Hole Clough (**BHC**).

This report summarizes one of the measures, agreed at BHCCAT Executive Committee Open Meetings (please see Minutes on our website), which are being taken to bring to an end the overpopulation of Canada Geese at BHC.

Natural England 'Technical Information Note TIN009' (2.11.2007): "The management of problems caused by Canada geese: a guide to best practice... Population management... Eggs may be coated with... liquid paraffin (BP / PhEur)... this technique is... 100% effective in preventing hatching and does not adversely affect the sitting bird... humane and effective in preventing additional young birds being recruited to the population..."

The above procedure has been carried out during the last 3 years by BHCCAT volunteer conservationists Paul McCrystal, Peter Milner, Sarah Gorman & Steve Hamilton. Mid & late April: eggs oiled. June: unhatched eggs collected for disposal to avoid attracting vermin.

Licences obtained each year from Natural England "to preserve public health or public safety" and "to conserve flora & fauna (including wild birds)." Both licences: "...Issued under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981... licence permits... authorised persons to carry out... otherwise prohibited activities against the species of wild birds listed... to take or destroy their eggs... Goose, Canada *Branta canadensis*..."

Written authorization, to carry out the work, received from MCC: letters dated 31.3.2009, 30.3.2010, 11.4.2011, signed by Saul Mearns (MCC North Area Parks Warden).

All nests are on the Lake island except a nest between Lake & Fish Pond (2009) & a nest on Fish Pond mini island (2010, 2011).

Table below: numbers in **bold black type** are exact figures; numbers in **bold grey type** are estimated figures.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
Year	Eggs oiled	Eggs not oiled				Total eggs oiled and not oiled	Average eggs per nest calculated from columns 2 & 3
		Too well defended	Underneath heronry	Inaccessible on Fish Pond mini island	Total eggs not oiled		
2009	<b>247</b> 52 nests	<b>33</b> 6 nests	<b>24</b> 5 nests	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b> 11 nests	<b>304</b> 63 nests	<b>4.8</b>
2010	<b>198</b> 44 nests	<b>11</b> 3 nests	<b>22</b> 5 nests	<b>4</b> 1 nest	<b>37</b> 9 nests	<b>235</b> 53 nests	<b>4.4</b>
2011	<b>177</b> 41 nests	<b>23</b> 5 nests	<b>22</b> 5 nests	<b>4</b> 1 nest	<b>49</b> 11 nests	<b>226</b> 52 nests	<b>4.3</b>

The fall over the 3 years in the total number of eggs laid (Column 7) is encouraging.

For further details re effectiveness of this eggs management, and other measures being taken, in reducing Canada Geese numbers please see BHCCAT '**Canada Geese population 2004-2010 data analysis**' (28.1.2011) doc on our website where further related BHCCAT documents can also be found e.g. 'Lake & Island biodiversity health proposals' (16.6.2008), '*Please don't feed the waterbirds* sign draft proposal' (23.5.2010), 'Lake & Island Waterbirds Sanctuary proposal' (30.9.2010) and 'Waterbirds Survey 2004-2010' (survey ongoing).

**Thanks** to BHCCAT conservationists mentioned above for carrying out this work and to the following for their support:

