



GOOSEWATCHNYC



NYC's Canada geese need your help! The U.S.D.A. will be in N.Y.C. during June and July to kill Canada geese across the city. *Please help us document the round ups.* **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- 1. Become a 'GooseWatch'er** - help monitor a park by distributing flyers, recording the number of geese, and monitoring for the USDA with a camera and cell phone. USDA might come at any time during the morning hours of June and July. If you can see a park with geese from your home or live nearby, we **NEED** you!
- 2. Join the emergency response team.** GooseWatch will send a mass phone call and text message to alert if a round-up is in progress. Text **NYGOOSE** to **556-78**.
- 3. 'like' GooseWatch NYC on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @GooseWatchNYC, and help us spread the word.**

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CANADA GEESE are beautiful, emotionally intelligent birds who mate for life, fiercely protect their eggs and young, and display loyalty for other members of their flock. Yet they are ruthlessly targeted in New York City. Since the landing of US Airways flight 1549 in the Hudson in January of 2009, more than 3,200 resident Canada Geese and their innocent goslings have been slaughtered in the NYC area. The USDA killings are conducted in secret and without any community notification. **This is because science, morality, and the public preference of most New Yorkers is not on their side.**

The USDA contract with the City of New York is a waste of taxpayer money. The USDA has taken geese from the same parks year after year, demonstrating that killing geese is not only inhumane, but also ineffective. When you remove geese from a desirable habitat, others will simply take the place of those you kill. NYC Audubon declared that the slaughters are "not supported by sound scientific research." Killing geese can never eliminate the risk of collisions with migratory birds, and can cause new migrations to prime habitats when current populations are wiped out. Killing Canada Geese does nothing to improve airline safety. NYC is situated on the Atlantic Flyway, a major migration route for millions of birds. You cannot stop thousands of years of evolution. **The slaughter is scientifically unsound and fiscally wasteful, a serious blight on this City's record and reputation that adds to NYC's already poor history of inhumane treatment of animals.**

Most airline crashes stem from pilot error, weather conditions or technical malfunctions. Airplanes are built to withstand collisions with birds, and if they are in good working condition they do just that. Life-threatening collisions with birds and other animals are incredibly rare. The indiscriminate slaughter of innocent creatures cannot be justified by that minuscule and avoidable possibility. Just two days before Flight 1549 went down over the Hudson, that airplane reported serious equipment problems. Captain Sullenberger has stated that budget slashes and cutbacks (including airplane maintenance) are at the root of air safety problems. Pilot error is cited as the number-one cause of fatalities, often caused by underpaid, overworked pilots making faulty decisions. **Killing wildlife does not make planes stronger or more durable.**

When humans kill wild animals that inconvenience us, we perpetuate and condone intolerance for ALL life, including our fellow humans. Only a very small percentage of the natural habitat that once existed in NYC for migratory birds still remains. Can't a huge city of more than 8 million people live with a few hundred peaceful, inspiringly beautiful birds? And refrain from killing them?

The USDA picks June to kill Canada Geese because the geese are at their most vulnerable and cannot fly, and they have babies (goslings) who are completely defenseless. It is cruel, it is inhumane and it is unwarranted.

The killing must be exposed and stopped. We plan to **be there** when the USDA comes back to NYC this summer. Please help us protect these birds. The time of the despicable annual roundups is drawing close.



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Needs your help protecting
[Name of] Park's Canada Geese



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