

Q. Why is the Park adding Canada Goose eggs?

A. Egg adding is one of the specific recommendations made by our Wildlife Management Advisory Committee on how to humanely reduce the population of Canada Geese at the Park. Egg adding is just one component of the Canada Goose Management Plan developed by this Committee.

For more about the Committee and the management plan, see:
<http://www.prospectpark.org/environment/wildlife/WildlifeManagement>

Q. What is egg adding (also known as “egg oiling”)?

A. “Adding means ‘loss of development’. It commonly refers to any process by which an egg ceases to be viable. Adding can happen in nature when incubation is interrupted for long enough that eggs cool and embryonic development stops.”

Source & more information:

http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/WILD_Goose_Egg_Addling_Protocol.pdf

In Prospect Park the method of egg adding will be to coat Canada Goose eggs with corn oil at a very early stage of development.

Q. Who will be carrying out the egg adding program?

A. The egg adding will be carried out by Prospect Park staff (and possibly interns) who have received special training from The Humane Society of the United States.

Q. What steps are being taken to assure that the adding is done in as humane a way as possible?

A. Staff will be following guidelines established by The Humane Society of the United States:
http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/WILD_Goose_Egg_Addling_Protocol.pdf.

In accordance with these guidelines, only eggs in the very early stages of development will be treated. Additionally, care will be taken to keep nest visits to the minimum to help reduce stress and disruption of the adult nesting geese.

Q. When will the adding take place?

A. Adding will take place in the spring once the female geese have finished laying eggs.

Q. Is egg adding for any other species currently planned?

A. No.

Q. Does Prospect Park need any special permission to undertake this project?

A. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has established a Nest & Egg Depredation Order that allows adding of Canada Goose eggs in most of the lower 48 states during particular times of the year.

For more information see <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/DOC/eRcgrFaq.pdf>