

2024 Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Report

David Rago - May 11, 2024

This year, I worked with Patrick Crunk, Rich Droste, and Bob Donald in collecting eggs and destroying nests. We went out on the lake a total of 3 times and set foot on every island on the lake. We also walked all the association property during the goose egg season April 8th- May 10th, as well as a private lot whose owner had given us permission.

Total for the season - 22 Eggs

Results

4-15-2024

Due to the late lake rise this year, Patrick Crunk & David Rago took kayaks on the lake and visited all 9 islands. 22 eggs were found in three nests (1 nest each on Kerry Island (7 eggs), Gaelic Island (7 eggs), and Leprechaun Island (8 eggs). These eggs were frozen and disposed of according to DNR guidelines and the nests destroyed. In addition to the above, 1 nest with a single cold egg was found on South Blarney Island. In accordance with DNR's egg collection protocol, this nest was left alone, to be dealt with later when the clutch was complete. There was also a nest found on North Blarney Island that appeared to be under construction. This nest was also left alone to be dealt with later.

4-23-2023

Since the lake still was not at summer levels, David Rago visited North and South Blarney Islands by kayak in order to deal with the nests that had been discovered more than a week earlier. The nest on South Blarney Island had only one broken shell in it. It did not appear to have hatched. The nest was destroyed. The nest on North Blarney appeared unchanged from a week earlier. That nest was destroyed.

5-9-2023

The lake was now at summer levels (This was the first day that the Rago's boat could be taken out of the hoist). David Rago visited all nine islands. No nests or eggs were found. It is worth noting that no evidence of any hatching was found.

This year's results (22 eggs) are quite a bit smaller than last year's (61 eggs). Again, all eggs were found on islands. Again, Leprechaun Island accounts for more than a third of all eggs found (36% - last year, 39%).

As of this writing, I have observed two or three small goose families (2-4 goslings – a normal clutch is 7-9 eggs) and only one full-sized family on the lake. This leads me to believe that our collection efforts are reducing the number of geese that choose to nest on our lake. When Canada Goose nests fail (as in when all their eggs are removed, too late in the season for another clutch), they often abandon the nest and move to a different place. I thank Dan Karagozian and his excellent efforts over the last couple of years for reducing the number of geese that have chosen to return to Lake Shannon.

We are allowed to harass geese on the lake and a green laser is recommended by the DNR. These are available on Amazon for about \$25.

Attached is the report that has been filed with the Michigan DNR.

Let me know if you have any questions.

David Rago