

# GatorGuard Instructions

**Rid your property of aggressive, disease-carrying Canada geese. As alligators are natural predators, this life-size, realistic replica is a safe, humane and effective solution for geese in water at golf courses, city parks, corporate grounds, homes and more.**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Bird-X, Inc. has been recognized worldwide as the bird and pest control experts for more than 45 years and its specialists are able to analyze problems and make recommendations based on each customer's specific situation and needs.

## **II. HUMANE BIRD CONTROL**

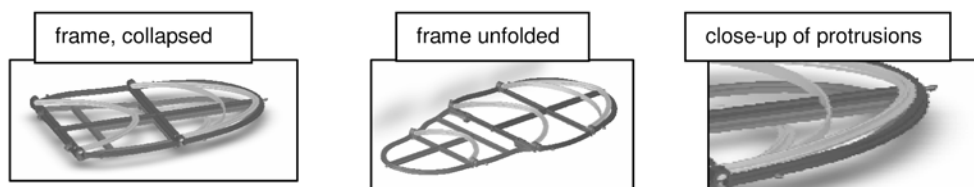
No birds were harmed in the development of this product, nor will any be harmed by its use.

## **III. WHY CONTROL GEESE?**

Presently between 3.5 and 5.5 million non-migratory Giant Canada geese reside in the U.S. and lower Canada. They are joined by an additional 9 to 11 million migrant Canada geese from northern Canada each fall to late spring. This population is growing exponentially at the rate of 30% a year, and the resulting mess (at least a pound of droppings per day per goose!) is both unsightly and unhealthy. Moreover, it increases the fecal coliform levels in ponds and can contaminate adjacent water and ground.

**IV. COVERAGE** Use a sufficient number of units to cover the entire area. One unit can cover a small pond, but adding additional units increases coverage dramatically (because seeing a predator in more than one location presents a greater sense of danger to the geese).

## **V. ASSEMBLY AND SET-UP**



- **FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
Open the box to find a gator rubber body and a frame. Unfold the frame and flip up the three struts perpendicular to the base.

Stretch the body over the frame, lining up the holes in the body with the protrusions in the frame, and press over each protrusion for a secure fit.

- **DEFENSIVE DRIVING AWAY**  
Try to install Gator before geese claim your property as their residence for the season. If you install late this season, never fear, because next season you'll start earlier and have even more success! Put Gator to work as soon as the ice melts (if you have ice) - so the early birds meet him on their way north. He'll work well into the fall and winter - but remove him before a deep freeze.
- **PEEKABOO, WHERE ARE YOU**  
Plan on 3-4 Gators per acre, though this varies with pond size, shape and surroundings. Because geese must see him to fear him, put several in different locations, especially if visibility is blocked by bushes, trees, houses or bends in the water.
- **MOVING RIGHT ALONG**  
Unlike stationary deterrents to which geese quickly acclimate, Gator is effective because he moves all around the pond with the wind. To avoid him getting stranded in bushes, check on him every few days.
- **ANCHORS AWAY**  
To anchor Gator, attach your own anchor to the frame and locate him well offshore (adjust the length of line according to pond depth and how much latitude you'll allow him!) It helps to move the anchor location periodically anyway, to create more of a sense of change, so pests can't grow accustomed to him centered at "home base".
- **KEEP IT CLEAN**  
Keep him clean and sparkling - as water movement bounces GatorGuard, his flashing eyes attract the attention of potential pests.
- **MORE THAN A PARTY ANIMAL**  
GatorGuard is fun, but he is not a lifesaving device and his paint is not intended for food use. (Don't float him in the punch bowl!)

## **V. MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY**

GatorGuard is warrantied against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of six months from the shipping date. At the option of Bird-X, Inc., we will either replace or repair the defective unit. Prior authorization and a returned goods authorization (RGA) number will be necessary from Bird-X, Inc. RETURNS ARE ACCEPTED ONLY WITH AUTHORIZATION FROM OUR CHICAGO OFFICE.

## VI. HINTS FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GOOSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- A. Survey the geese and their entry, exit and feeding habits.
- B. Inspect your property. Discover what the geese find attractive about your area, and if the same conditions prevail in neighboring properties.
- C. Maintain a changing environment. For maximum effectiveness, periodically relocate or reposition the unit.
- D. Install early, before the "season" begins, as it is easier to discourage them than to rout them out once they have already established a pattern.
  - *Late summer to early winter*, when all geese can fly and goslings don't require special feeding areas, you will experience quickest success.
  - *Late winter to early spring*, as nesting season approaches and geese claim territories, it will take more effort.
  - *Mid-spring*, when nests are constructed and eggs are laid, you'll face even greater challenges.
  - *Late spring to mid summer*, as eggs hatch but goslings cannot yet fly, you'll benefit from another period of less resistance.
- E. Use products synergistically. Because success takes time to build, and goose habits may take time to break, for best results, Bird-X, Inc. always recommends that the GatorGuard be used in conjunction with one or more other products. The combination of different types of control methods has proven to maximize the effectiveness of pest goose control programs. Call Bird-X, Inc. at (312) 226-2473 (BAN BIRD) or visit [www.bird-x.com](http://www.bird-x.com) for more information on companion products, specifically:
  - GooseBuster first-ever naturally-recorded goose alarm call generator, developed by a renowned biologist;
  - 3D Coyote realistic stalking replica;
  - GooseChase food-grade, biodegradable taste aversion spray for grass.
- F. Consider alternate locations. Make educated guesses as to where the geese will go, and consider purchasing additional units for these areas.
- G. *Establish Zero Tolerance*: Drive all geese away. Success is achievable if you *prevent* geese from claiming stakes rather than waiting — often for as short a time as 20 minutes — until they establish proprietorship. Do not accept one or two pair, as their comfort will elicit calls which make other geese find that area attractive.
- H. Consider aggressive *additional* harassment (multiple people performing multiple movements; variation is most important).

Walk or run toward (or jog by) the geese while waving your arms

Stare at geese

Drive a lawnmower or other groundskeeping equipment toward them, or operate machinery nearby

Fish with a large surface lure cast near geese on ponds

Use pyrotechnics, cracker shells and fireworks (no permit required for use on geese, but check local noise/fireworks ordinances.)

If they're on a pond, use cracker shells and/or drag a floating rope across the pond to force the geese to fly to another site. Water normally provides safe haven from predators and disturbance, but this can be overcome with a bit of ingenuity and effort.

Exclude them from water — prevent them from entering or leaving water with low fencing or fishing line strung at 6 and 12-inch heights during brood rearing and flightless periods. Geese will avoid an area with no access to water's safety and nourishment.

Use dogs, a breed that chases geese and returns on command. You are responsible for preventing harm to geese, goslings or eggs.

Use insecticide to make the grass less desirable for goslings' regular diet of insects

**REORDER** Part # GG

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