

Lesson 7

READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

Goose Eradication

In 1995, twenty-four people were killed when a military radar plane crashed at an airfield in Alaska. In the ensuing investigation, it was discovered that several Canadian geese had been sucked into the jet engine, which caused it to fail.

It was clear that something needed to be done to prevent another accident from occurring. The population of geese in the area had been doubling every five years. Citizens were encouraged to synchronize their efforts to create “Goose-Free Zones” near their airports.

A methodology for dispersing the geese had to be determined. Some thought a solution to the problem would be to use animal psychology. They would fool the geese into thinking they were surrounded by their natural enemies by placing placards of a fox or a coyote around the field.

Others were involved in the bodily removal of the goslings to bird refuges. They then conducted searches for any remaining eggs. A goose egg hunt was conducted in a bog near the International Airport. The gathered eggs were donated to natives who relish them.

Currently, Anchorage spends about \$400,000 a year to eliminate geese from its four airports. Chroniclers report that the program is a success.