

Muscovy Ducks

Muscovy ducks have naturally expanded their range from Mexico into the southernmost part of Texas. Muscovy ducks were added to the list of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 2010 due to this expansion. However, these ducks are popular in the pet trade, so depredation order 50 CFR 21.54 allows removal of Muscovy ducks outside of where they naturally occur. Any Muscovy ducks in North Carolina are considered released domestics.

What is the common damage caused by Muscovy ducks? People often become upset by ducks that utilize and defecate in their pools. Muscovy ducks may become nuisances by staying around yards without fear of people.

Can a WDCA write a depredation permit? A WDCA does not need to write a state depredation permit for Muscovy ducks since they are not native wildlife in NC. No federal permit is required for Muscovy ducks under depredation order 50 CFR 21. 54.

Can Muscovy ducks be relocated? No, under depredation order 50 CFR 21.54 you may not release a Muscovy duck in any location other than the capture site. They must be released on site, euthanized at the capture site, or taken to a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia.

What can I do with sick or injured Muscovy ducks? Muscovy ducks are non-native in North Carolina. It is not recommended that they be rehabilitated. Advise individuals to leave the bird alone to see if it can recover on its own. If the bird has a life-threatening injury or illness it should be humanely euthanized and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

Are there any safety concerns? No, however it is good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- Harassment
 - Dogs, lasers, and loud noises can deter ducks. This is most effective when they have just begun to land on someone's property.
- Landscape modification
 - Ducks prefer water bodies that are surrounded by short grassy areas that allow them to have a place to rest and graze. This makes manicured lawns around retention ponds ideal habitat. Planting tall grasses or trees around a pond or installing fencing can make an area less desirable to ducks. To learn more click [here](#).
 - Ducks prefer gradually sloping grassy areas around the water sources. Using riprap or creating a steep slope can be effective in deterring them.

Lethal Options:

- A state depredation permit is not required to take Muscovy ducks.
- Federal permits in NC are not required under depredation order [50 CFR 21.54](#).
 - Anywhere in the contiguous United States except in Hidalgo, Starr, and Zapata Counties in Texas and in Alaska Hawaii and U.S. territories and possessions, landowners and Federal, State, Tribal, and local wildlife management agencies, their tenants, employees

or agents may, without a Federal permit, remove or destroy Muscovy ducks and their nests or eggs at any time when found.

- You may donate Muscovy ducks taken under this permit to public museums or institutions for scientific or educational purposes, or you dispose of them by burying or incinerating them. You may not retain for personal use or consumption, offer for sale, or sell a Muscovy duck removed under the authority of this section, nor may you release it in any other location.

