

Wonder Lake Cormorants

- 1) Population
  - a. 2012-2014 less than 100 birds
  - b. 2016 more than 100 birds
  - c. 2017 more than 200 birds
  - d. 2018 more than 400 birds
- 2) Roosting
  - a. 2016 south end of lake, Wickline Island
  - b. 2017, 70% north end of lake, Strom Island
  - c. 2017, 30% south end of lake, Wickline Island
- 3) Rookery – Fireworks Island  
**Cut down dead trees in fall/winter so they do not have a place to nest next year.  
Harass immediately upon their return in spring.**
- 4) Feed morning and afternoon
- 5) Rest/roost 4+ hours after feeding
- 6) Questions
  - a. When do birds nest and for how long?  
**April – July, 4 weeks after chicks are born they fly away.**
  - b. How do I identify a rookery vs roost?  
**Wickline Island and Strom Island are roosts.  
Fireworks Island is a rookery – nesting birds**
  - c. Can birds on the water be harassed/chased by boat?  
**Yes, we have approval from the IDNR.**
  - d. How long does it take to kill the trees?  
**3 – 5 years**
  - e. What can be done to save the trees?  
**Get rid of the birds.**
  - f. What is the difference between short and long term measures?  
**Two to three weeks of constant, intensive, sustained harassment should make them uncomfortable enough to find a new place to call home.**
  - g. Do we need a permit for harassment?  
**No – we have a letter from the IDNR giving us permission to implement our plan of action.**
  - h. Types of harassment  
**Auditory deterrents, cannons, whistles, air horns, pyrotechnics, etc.  
Lasers – laser pointers work at dusk  
Mylar flagging, scary man**
  - i. We cannot harass birds on nests or caring for young. (Wickline Island)



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

## Wonder Lake MPOA Guidelines for Cormorant Harassment

May 2017

The Double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is a federally protected waterbird. Its protection falls under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703–711). Therefore, these birds may not be physically harmed or harassed from a rookery. The definition of a rookery is a breeding colony of birds, typically seen as a collection of nests high in a clump of trees.

### Legal Harassment in a Roosting/Loafing Situation

The Double-crested cormorant can legally be harassed, but not harmed, only in a roosting/loafing situation. The definition of roosting is a place where birds regularly settle or congregate to rest. The definition of loafing is a general state of immobility that involves a heterogeneous set of behaviors such as sleeping, sitting, standing, resting, preening, and defecating that occur outside the breeding territory.

*Based on an IDNR site visit on May 10, 2017, it was determined that the only established Cormorant rookery is located on Fireworks Island in the West Bay. As such, no harassment activities can be conducted around Fireworks Island until the 2017 nesting season is over. Only cormorant roosting activity was observed on Strom, Yacht Club, and Wickline Islands, as well as O'Brien Shoals, which confirms that legal harassment techniques, as detailed below, can be conducted in those areas.*

Methods that can be used to legally harass a bird are found below

- air/propane cannons
- Mylar streamers or balloons
- scarecrows and cardboard cutouts
- pyrotechnics
- chasing with a boat
- lasers
- any audible sounds recorded and played through speakers
- human presence in area that does not involve physical contact with birds

Harassment should be persistent and consistent until the birds have left the area. Harassment techniques should be combined for best results. A random combination of these techniques will not allow the birds to become complacent.



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## Nuisance Animal Removal Permit

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Resource Conservation- Wildlife

Name: Wonder Lake MPOA Street: 7602 Hancock Drive City: Wonder Lake  
Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club  
Randy Stowe, Lake Manager Phone # (815) 653-1000 Zipcode: 60097

Area: Township Greenwood and McHenry Twp: 45N R: 7 and 8E Sect: \_\_\_\_\_ County: McHenry

Damage: Type: killing of trees and native vegetation on ecologically restored islands

Species Involved: Double-crested Cormorant

Method of Harassment: see attachment Method of Disposition: Not Applicable

The above person(s) is/are granted a indefinitely day permit under Sect. 2.37 of the Illinois Wildlife Code to remove specified types of wildlife that are causing property damage. This permit is valid from until problem is resolved and only on the lands described above, subject to the provisions listed on this permit.

### Recommendations:

Return to IDNR Wildlife c/o Stefanie Fitzsimons 8916 Wilmot Rd Spring Grove, IL 60081

### Issuing Agent:

Signature: Stefanie A Fitzsimons Title: District Wildlife Biologist Date: 5/10/2017

TO BE COMPLETED BY LANDOWNER: A total of: NA animals as described above were trapped and

disposition was by: Euthanized NA Use of a firearm for any removal activities requires a valid F.O.I.D. card.

Relocated NA

Landowner, please sign this permit upon receipt and verify provisions of the permit:

Richard A. Ultron

### Permit Provisions:

1. Control methods may be used only on the property described above
2. No poison of any kind may be used.
3. No parts or pelts of the animals may be used, sold, or utilized in any manner.
4. No other wildlife may be taken or harmed in any manner.

The IDNR is an equal opportunity employer. Equal opportunity to participate in all programs of the IDNR and those funded by the USFWS is available to all regardless.



# Nuisance Animal Removal Permit

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Resource Conservation- Wildlife

Name: Wonder Lake MPOA Street: 7602 Hancock Dr City: Wonder Lake  
Phone # 815-653-1000 Zipcode: 60097

Area: Township Greenwood Twp: 45N R: 7 and 8E Sect: \_\_\_\_\_ County: McHenry

Damage: Type: killing of trees and native vegetation on ecologically restored islands

Species Involved: Double-crested Cormorant

Method of Removal: USFWS permit # MB33476D-0 Method of Disposition: lethal removal and harassment

The above person(s) is/are granted a 370 day permit under Sect. 2.37 of the Illinois Wildlife Code to remove specified types of wildlife that are causing property damage. This permit is valid from 3/15/2019 to 3/31/2020 and only on the lands described above, subject to the provisions listed on this permit.

### Recommendations:

Return to IDNR Wildlife c/o Stefanie Fitzsimons 8916 Wilmot Rd Spring Grove, IL 60081

### Issuing Agent:

Signature: Stefanie A Fitzsimons Title: District Wildlife Biologist Date: 3/15/2019

TO BE COMPLETED BY LANDOWNER: A total of : \_\_\_\_\_ animals as described above were trapped and

disposition was by: Euthanized  Use of a firearm for any removal activities requires a valid F.O.I.D. card.

Relocated

Landowner, please sign this permit upon receipt and verify provisions of the permit: \_\_\_\_\_

### Permit Provisions:

- Control methods may be used only on the property described above
- Removal shall be by the methods stated on the permit. No poison of any kind may be used.
- No parts or pelts of the animals may be used, sold, or utilized in any manner.
- No other wildlife may be taken or harmed in any manner.
- You are required to submit a record of the animals trapped and their disposition within 10 days of the expiration of your permit.

The IDNR is an equal opportunity employer. Equal opportunity to participate in all programs of the IDNR and those funded by the USFWS is available to all regardless.

## Cormorant Action Plan

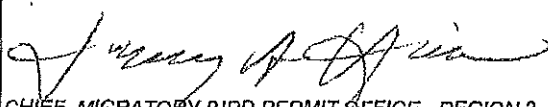
- 1) Start date – Sooner the better
- 2) Disrupt **roosting**
  - a) Approach islands by boat (working so far)
  - b) Blow air horn
  - c) Evening use lasers
  - d) Set up Mylar strips, scary man, etc.
- 3) When the birds leave the roost chase by boat
- 4) Continue the above for two to three consecutive weeks
- 5) May 2017, the MPOA/Sportsman Club received a permit from the IDNR allowing the harassment of the cormorants, including chasing the birds by boat.
- 6) May 2017, the MPOA/Sportsman Club purchased a propane cannon to periodically fire to scare the birds off roost.
- 7) Following the 2019 recommendation of the USFWS we purchased pyrotechnics designed specifically for harassing migratory birds. Volunteers will use these daily in early spring to discourage nest building.
- 8) Justin Rieke, a local tree trimmer, has volunteered to remove the cormorant nest from the islands. These nests are 40 to 50 feet high and have been unable to be removed from the ground. Eliminating the nest combined with harassment activities should discourage the Cormorants from nesting in Wonder Lake.
- 9) In March 2019, we received a lethal permit from the USFWS to take up to 20 double-crested cormorants by shotgun.



**Permit Number: MB33476D-0**  
Effective: 03/15/2019 Expires: 03/31/2020

**Issuing Office:**

Department of the Interior  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Migratory Bird Permit Office  
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458  
Tel: 612-713-5436 Fax: 612-713-5393

  
CHIEF, MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT OFFICE - REGION 3

**Permittee:**

WONDER LAKE MASTER PROPERTY OWNER ASSOC.  
7602 HANCOCK DR  
WONDER LAKE, IL 60097

**Name and Title of Principal Officer:**  
DENNIS GALLLO - VICE PRES.

**Authority: Statutes and Regulations:** 16 USC 703-712; 50 CFR Part 13, 50 CFR 21.41.

**Location where authorized activity may be conducted:**

WONDER LAKE ISLANDS  
WONDER LAKE, IL

**Reporting requirements:**

ANNUAL REPORT DUE: 01/31

You must submit a report to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office, even if you had no activity. Report form is at: [www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-9.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-9.pdf).

**Authorizations and Conditions:**

A. General conditions set out in Subpart B of 50 CFR 13, and specific conditions contained in Federal regulations cited above, are hereby made a part of this permit. All activities authorized herein must be carried out in accord with and for the purposes described in the application submitted. Continued validity, or renewal of this permit is subject to complete and timely compliance with all applicable conditions, including the filing of all required information and reports.

B. The validity of this permit is also conditioned upon strict observance of all applicable foreign, state, local tribal, or other federal law.

C. Valid for use by permittee named above.

D. You are authorized to take up to 20 double-crested cormorants. Lethal take is not to be the primary means of control. Active hazing, harassment or other non-lethal techniques must continue in conjunction with any lethal take of migratory birds.

E. You may use the following method(s) of take: shotgun, in accordance with Standard Condition #2, firearms. Use of paint ball guns is prohibited.

F. Anyone who takes birds under the authority of this permit must follow the American Veterinary Medical



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Association Guidelines on Euthanasia ([http://www.avma.org/issues/animal\\_welfare/euthanasia.pdf](http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf)).

G. The following subpermittees are authorized: Any person who is (1) employed by or under contract to you for the activities specified in this permit, or (2) otherwise designated a subpermittee by you in writing, may exercise the authority of this permit.

H. You and any subpermittees must comply with the attached Standard Conditions for Migratory Bird Depredation Permits. **These standard conditions are a continuation of your permit conditions and must remain with your permit.**

**For suspected illegal activity, immediately contact USFWS Law Enforcement at: 217-793-9554**