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The short answer to the question of what animal would steal eggs is: many. A wide array of creatures, from sneaky mammals and persistent birds to slithering reptiles and even industrious insects, are opportunistic egg thieves. The exact culprits vary greatly depending on your geographical location, the type of eggs available, and the security measures you have in place to protect them. Some of the most common offenders include foxes, skunks, opossums, raccoons, coyotes, rats, snakes, blue jays, crows, and even domestic animals like dogs and cats. Identifying the culprit is crucial for implementing effective preventative measures to safeguard your precious eggs. Understanding the Egg-Stealing CulpritsMammalian Marauders: The Usual SuspectsFoxes: These cunning predators are notorious for their love of eggs. They often carry them away to be eaten or cached (buried) for later consumption. A telltale sign of fox activity might be missing eggs, perhaps some scattered shells, or even a dug-up area where an egg was buried.Skunks: Known for their insectivorous diet, skunks are also opportunistic feeders and will readily consume eggs. They are particularly fond of ground-nesting bird eggs but won't hesitate to raid a chicken coop. Skunks are excellent mousers.Opossums: These nocturnal scavengers are not picky eaters and will happily devour eggs if they find them. They may also pose a threat to young chicks and even small adult chickens.Raccoons: Highly intelligent and adaptable, raccoons are adept at finding and accessing food sources, including eggs. They often carry the eggs away from the nest or coop to consume them elsewhere.Rats: Often overlooked, rats can be significant egg thieves, especially in poorly maintained coops. They also pose a threat to chicks and spread diseases.Chicken owls: These nocturnal predators will keep rats out of the coop.Coyotes: Like foxes, coyotes are opportunistic predators that will readily take eggs if the opportunity presents itself. They are more likely to attack the hens themselves well.Squirrels: These rodents are known to steal eggs, nibbling a hole in the egg and licking out the contents.Stoats and Weasels: Stoats and weasels will eat eggs in the nest, although they are usually too shy to approach chickens.Pine Martens or Polecats: Being bigger, can also take eggs, but they are wary of people and dogs.Avian Assault: Feathered FriendsBlue Jays: These intelligent and often aggressive birds are known to raid nests and steal eggs. They are particularly active during nesting season.Crows: Similar to blue jays, crows are opportunistic feeders that will readily consume eggs if they have the chance.Australian Raven: These intelligent birds are found in East Coast & South West Coast Australia.Reptilian Raiders: Scaly ScavengersSnakes: Various snake species are capable of consuming eggs, especially if they can access nests or coops. They can swallow eggs whole or regurgitate the shells later.Protecting Your Eggs: Fortifying the FortressThe best way to prevent egg theft is to implement robust security measures around your nests or coops. This includes:Secure Housing: Ensure that your chicken coop is well-built and has no gaps or holes that predators can exploit. Use hardware cloth (wire mesh) to cover any openings.Secure Nest Boxes: Make sure your nest boxes are inaccessible to predators. Elevate them and/or enclose them in a predator-proof structure.Regular Egg Collection: Collecting eggs frequently minimizes the opportunity for predators to find them.Electric Fencing: An electric fence around the perimeter of your coop can deter many mammalian predators.Guardian Animals: Dogs, geese, or even certain breeds of chickens can act as guardians and deter predators.Cleanliness: Keep your coop and surrounding area clean to avoid attracting rodents and other pests that may also be egg thieves.Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Egg Theft1. Do foxes bury eggs?Yes, foxes will often bury eggs (cache them) for later consumption. They are also adept at chewing through plastic hoses/pipes and polythene tunnels.2. Do skunks eat eggs?Yes, skunks are opportunistic feeders and will readily eat eggs. They also eat many mice, rats, other small rodents, gophers, and a variety of insects. They will also take the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds.3. Do opossums steal chicken eggs?Yes, opossums are known to steal and eat chicken eggs.4. How do I know if a raccoon killed my chickens?After a raccoon attack, you'll notice blood and feathers everywhere with pieces of chickens inside the coop and outside of the coop. They will pull off any piece they can reach, heads, wings, legs, and innards. They prefer to eat the breast meat and they can be quite wasteful.15. How many chickens will a fox take in one night?Coyotes and foxes usually only take one bird at a time and will carry off their prey for food. Foxes tend to bury their kill after carrying it away from the attack sight, leaving little evidence as they eat most of their prey.By understanding the potential egg thieves in your area and implementing appropriate preventative measures, you can significantly reduce the risk of egg theft and ensure a bountiful harvest from your feathered friends. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the wildlife around us is essential. Resources such as The Environmental Literacy Council found at [environmental.org](#) are helpful in this endeavor. Nov 11, 2009 806 17 141 Alberta, Canada So I have a trio of African geese that just started laying, but something has been taking their eggs! At one time they had up to 4 eggs and in two other morning they were gone I don't know what animal is big enough to eat 2-4 goose eggs but is not big enough to eat a goose They've laid more eggs but they get taken too Does any one know what could be taking these eggs? and what I can do to protect them? oh and we don't have any coons around here. Mar 23, 2010 543 5 129 Chehalis, WA Skunks get mine sometimes... They usually sneak into the chicken coop to steal eggs but they got one goose egg. Now I pull them morning and night and have improved my fencing. My other geese would be raccoons but if you don't have them then can't be it. Are you SURE that you don't have them? The same way to prevent raccoon should prevent other egg stealers... get motion lights, or have a radio on nearby so they think humans are around. Electric fencing or high fencing, barbed wire on top of fencing... etc. Good Luck with that!Oh yeah... and it could have been a bunch of animals that ate 4 eggs... like 4 small animals each came together and ate one egg... are they leaving shells behind? Last edited: Mar 24, 2010 Nov 11, 2009 806 17 141 Alberta, Canada Quote:Yeah it could be skunks I'm pretty sure one got one of my ducks a while back ( a little stinkers ) Yeah I'm pretty sure their are no coons around here, And no their are not any shells at all, the whole egg is just gone. Nov 30, 2009 927 2 129 Virginia Our chickens have been eating our goose eggs!!! Maybe that is what you have?noahsgeese Jan 18, 2008 8,431 189 381 Newman Lake, WA Feb 9, 2008 2,950 23 214 Central Michigan I bet fox would also steal them or opossums, they love eggs. Feb 21, 2010 1,076 13 149 Virginia I would say Raccoon's most likely. We have them bad here and they will kill chicken's too.Never had them get to my geese however.But I guess there are other critter's that could rack them off as well.Usually if crows get them you will find shell bit's.Get a Havahart trap if you can afford one put a can of tuna or cat food in for bait.If it's a ground animal like coon etc. you will get him. Fox are VERY hard to trap.We are getting a new one here for the coon's and stuff since replenishing the entire stock and bird's are starting to go to coop's.Hope you find your predator as a huge fox did get in a 5 ft pen and ate an entire large Toulouse goose here last year. Good Luck DG May 19, 2008 35,106 230 458 Western MA Nov 11, 2009 806 17 141 Alberta, Canada Quote:Yeah I thought about getting a trap, I just didn't want to spend the money. I thought about waiting out there all night with a .22 but I think I'll just buck up and buy a trap. Nov 11, 2009 806 17 141 Alberta, Canada Quote:I don't think a snake could eat a whole goose ( or 4) Goose eggs, while seemingly robust, face a surprising number of threats that can prevent them from hatching. The demise of a goose egg can stem from a variety of factors, broadly categorized into predation, environmental conditions, human interference, and internal issues. Understanding these threats is crucial for conservation efforts and for anyone seeking to manage goose populations effectively. Lets dive into the details!Predators of Goose EggsNatural Predators:The most significant threat to goose eggs comes from predation. A wide array of animals consider goose eggs a nutritious and readily available meal. These predators vary depending on the geographical location of the goose nesting site.Mammalian Predators:Foxes: Opportunistic hunters, foxes are adept at locating and raiding nests, consuming the eggs quickly.Coyotes: Similar to foxes, coyotes are resourceful predators capable of overcoming various nesting defenses.Raccoons: Known for their dexterity, raccoons can easily manipulate nests and access the eggs.Wolves: While less common, wolves will prey on goose eggs if the opportunity arises.Bears: In areas where bears are present, they can cause significant damage to nests and consume the eggs.Wolverines: Ferocious and persistent, wolverines are capable of raiding nests even in challenging environments.Avian Predators:Gulls: Gulls often scavenge and will readily take unguarded eggs.Eagles: Powerful birds of prey, eagles can easily access nests in open areas.Ravens: Intelligent and adaptable, ravens are known to target nests and consume the eggs.Domestic AnimalsDomestic animals can also pose a threat to goose eggs, especially in areas where geese nest near human settlements.Dogs: Unsupervised dogs can easily disturb nests and consume the eggs.Cats: While less likely to directly consume the eggs, cats can disturb nesting geese, making the nest more vulnerable to other predators.Environmental Factors Affecting Goose EggsTemperature and Humidity:Temperature and humidity play a critical role in the successful incubation of goose eggs. Deviations from the ideal conditions can lead to embryo death.Extreme Temperatures: Both excessively high and low temperatures can be lethal. Overheating can denature proteins, while freezing temperatures can damage cellular structures.Insufficient Humidity: Low humidity can cause the egg to dry out, preventing proper development.Excessive Humidity: High humidity can lead to bacterial growth and hinder proper gas exchange through the eggshell.Nest Flooding:Flooding is a significant threat, especially for geese that nest near bodies of water prone to rising levels. Submerging the eggs in water for extended periods can suffocate the embryo.Phytoplankton Damage:Phytoplankton damage to the eggshell can also be fatal. Cracks and punctures compromise the eggs protective barrier, allowing bacteria to enter and cause the embryo to dry. This can occur due to accidental trampling by other animals or humans.Nest Disturbance: Nest disturbance, such as trampling, can lead to the physical destruction of the egg. Intentional destruction of goose eggs occurs in some situations, often as a method of population control. This can involve:Crushing the eggs: A direct and immediate method of preventing hatching.Removing the eggs: Discarding the eggs from the nest.Oiling the eggs: Coating the eggs with food-grade mineral oil blocks the pores in the shell, preventing gas exchange and effectively suffocating the embryo.Accidental Disturbance:Accidental disturbance of nests by humans can also lead to egg death. Even unintentional interference can stress the nesting geese, causing them to abandon the nest or accidentally damage the eggs.Relocation of Nests:Relocating a goose nest, even a short distance, can result in the mother goose abandoning the nest. Geese rely on familiar landmarks to locate their nests, and moving the nest can disorient them, leading to nest failure.Internal Issues Affecting Goose EggsInfertility:Not all goose eggs are fertile. Infertility can occur due to various factors, including:Age of the parents: Older geese may have reduced fertility.Health of the parents: Poor nutrition or disease can impact fertility.Genetic issues: Inherited abnormalities can prevent successful fertilization.Embryonic Death:Even if an egg is fertile, the embryo may die during development due to:Genetic abnormalities: Mutations or other genetic issues can lead to developmental failure.Nutritional deficiencies: Insufficient nutrients in the egg can prevent proper embryo growth.Infections: Bacterial or viral infections can kill the developing embryo.FAQs About What Kills Goose Eggs1. What is the most common cause of goose egg mortality?The most common cause is predation by foxes, raccoons, and other opportunistic animals.2. Is it illegal to destroy goose eggs?Yes, in many regions. Canada geese are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, making it illegal to harm them, their eggs, or their nests without a permit. Contact your local wildlife authorities for clarification.3. What should I do if I find a goose nest on my property?Leave the nest undisturbed. If you are concerned about the geese, contact your local wildlife control specialists for advice.4. Can I move a goose nest to a safer location?No, it is generally not recommended. Moving a nest can cause the mother goose to abandon it. It is also illegal without a permit.5. How does oiling goose eggs prevent hatching?Oiling the eggs with food-grade mineral oil blocks the pores in the eggshell, preventing the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide and suffocating the embryo.6. Is oiling goose eggs a humane method of population control?While it can cause stress to the geese as she continues to incubate the non-viable eggs. However, it is generally considered more humane than destroying the nest.7. What smells deter geese from nesting in an area?Strong smells like peppermint oil, garlic, and vinegar can deter geese. However, their effectiveness can vary.8. Do fake owls or other decoys effectively deter geese from nesting?Decoys can be effective, especially if moved frequently. However, geese can become accustomed to them over time. Motion-activated decoys are often more successful.9. What temperature range is ideal for goose egg incubation?The ideal incubation temperature for goose eggs is around 99.5-100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.5-37.8 degrees Celsius).10. How long does it take for goose eggs to hatch?Goose eggs typically take 28 to 35 days to hatch.11. What are the signs of a dead embryo inside a goose egg?Candling, shining a bright light through the egg in a dark room, can reveal whether the embryo is alive. If the veins are not visible and the egg appears opaque, the embryo is likely dead.12. What happens if a goose nest is destroyed?The pair will generally attempt to re-nest at or near the original site, especially early in the nesting season.13. Can I eat a goose egg if I find one?Goose eggs are safe to eat, but the flavor is much stronger than chicken or duck eggs.14. How can I tell if a goose egg is fertile?Candling the egg after a few days of incubation can reveal whether there are veins indicating a developing embryo.15. What resources are available to learn more about goose conservation and management?You can contact your local wildlife agency or visit websites like [environmental.org](#). The Environmental Literacy Council, for educational resources. Jan 28, 2016 61 19 76 Adelaide Hills, South Australia HI AllI have a broody Golden Laced Wyandotte hen who has been sitting on her eggs quite well over the past three weeks. Yesterday the eggs began to hatch. Today the hatching is still going on (one chick has pipped and broken through the shell)The broody keeps getting out of the nest whenever the other chicks or the rooster walk past the coop as though she wants to join them again and then she goes back to broody mode when they are gone and settles on her nest again.Is this normal? This is her first time sitting on eggs and she is quite a young hen (just over a year old) I just worry she will harm the chicks or that her getting of the eggs will interrupt with hatching. ....I'm so stressed out!!!! I have a broody silkie cross bantam that may take on the eggs/chicks if the Wyandotte abandons .....also how long for a chick to hatch once its started unzipping the shell ? Just worried its taking too long but I know it is best to leave it to nature which I learnt when my silkies hatched chicks Any advice/ reassurance would be appreciated .....I get way to worried during hatching time Oct 17, 2016 3,184 25 316 892 Is she isolated or in a coop box? She should be isolated for the first few days at least. That way she can focus on her chicks and bond with them. Since she is so young, I would blame her age. I wouldn't let a hen that young hatch eggs. They don't have quite the maturity or determination that an older hen does. She could be getting up to protect her chicks whenever another chicken walks by; that makes the most sense to me, at least. They should just sit on the eggs all day straight for the last three days, although at this point, temp shouldn't play such a huge roll as it does when they are still developing. Once they're out of the egg, that's when she needs to sit down at let them sleep in the heat. Typically it takes them a long time to hatch; sometimes around 15 hours, but if it takes that long something's wrong.Good luck with your broody! Jan 28, 2016 61 19 76 Adelaide Hills, South Australia Thanks so much for your quick response PeppersMama! I have three chook coops and she is in the nest box in one of them. The other chickens are in another coop. If she abandons or rejects the chicks I can always hand raise them I know I shouldn't have let her sit until she was older.....I have learnt a lesson now it has been about 9 hours since the external pip I think so things should be okay Do you think the broody bantam would take on the chicks if I put them under her at night? Thankyou.....hopefully she takes care of the chicks....if she does I will let her hatch some more when she is more mature Oct 17, 2016 3,184 25 316 892 Sometimes a very broody bantam will just lay down and go broody when she sees a chick. Sneaking them under her at night might not necessarily cause broodiness. When a hen goes broody, a hormone kicks in that causes her to want to nest really bad. Once the chicks are about 8 weeks old, it stops having quite as big an effect, and she begins to lose interest in her chicks.If your bantam has a running record of being an awesome mama, then putting them in a pen/kennel together where they can be supervised could work. I have seen it done with silkies and lone chicks before.Good luck! Jan 30, 2015 58,396 243,438 1,727 I agree that her immaturity could well be the cause of her lack of attentiveness. And yes, if she messes up, you can try with your broody bantam (but make sure that you have your brooder set up, in case things go wrong). I would like to add that, as with many issues relating to keeping chickens - very few are caste in stone. There are certainly different approaches to managing broodies than the one mentioned by @Peppersmama. Jan 28, 2016 61 19 76 Adelaide Hills, South Australia Thanks PeppersMama and CTKen The Wyandotte has been back on her nest for a while now and the chick is chirping in the egg and slowly unzipping the shell. when she hears the chick chirp she puffs herself up and clucks which is a good sign, if she decides to abandon the nest I will put the hatching eggs under the broody bantam and keep a close eye on things. I have a brooder box set up in case things go wrong. The bantams seem to be good mothers from experience and the broody has been sitting for a week...she is very aggressive towards me and her flock mates so she may take on chicks Thanks again for your advice Jan 28, 2016 61 19 76 Adelaide Hills, South Australia I just thought I would give an update on my broody hen and her eggs.Her chick hatched yesterday afternoon and she has accepted it well and is sitting on the nest. She is being a very good mother so far and has been showing the chick how to drink water out of the chick water feeder. I have moved her and her chick to a small chook coop away from the rest of the flock (it did so at night), they have settled well in their new coop The other egg isn't doing much so I think the chick may have died in that one at some point. I tricked the broody bantam hen by putting the egg under her. I will give it a few days just to know for sure it isn't going to hatch. Jan 30, 2015 58,396 243,438 1,727 Apr 15, 2013 16,612 26,196 1,026 Forrest Beach, PNG, Australia Howdy emhalloran After reading your comments and before reading the responses my first thought was are you sure she is getting up because she wants to join the others or could she possibly be getting up to prepare a defence against possible intrusion and/or threat to her chicks? I also do not think that just over a year old too young to have a hatch. I have had broodies at 9 months of age cope wonderfully well with raising a first hatch. Anyways, I really just wanted to say that I am pleased to read that she has settled and is looking after her bub Goose eggs, being large and nutritious, are a tempting target for a variety of predators. The answer to What animals steal goose eggs? is quite extensive, encompassing a range of creatures from the ground, air, and even water. Predators of goose eggs are opportunistic, often taking advantage of unguarded nests or moments when the parent geese are away. Key culprits include:Mammals:Foxes are notorious egg thieves and will readily consume goose eggs. They are adept hunters and often patrol areas where geese nest.Raccoons are highly adaptable and intelligent scavengers. They are known for raiding nests and will not hesitate to feast on eggs.Skunks are another common predator, often digging into nests and consuming eggs.Opossums are opportunistic and will take advantage of any unprotected eggs they find.Coyotes are larger predators that may also include goose eggs in their diet, especially if they are nesting in areas where they roam.Rats and even larger rodents can also be a problem, especially for smaller eggs or in situations where geese nest in less secure areas.Domestic dogs and cats, especially if they are allowed to roam freely, might also raid nests and eat eggs.Birds:Crows and other corvids like magpies, jacksdaws, and ravens are significant egg predators. They are intelligent and will often seek out nests.Gulls, especially in coastal areas, can be a threat, particularly if nests are not well concealed.Blue jays are also known to steal eggs from other birds nests.Reptiles:Various snakes, particularly rat snakes and other larger species, are capable of swallowing goose eggs whole. It's important to understand that the specific predators will vary depending on the geographic location and habitat of the nesting geese. Regardless, all the above animals are potential egg thieves, presenting a challenge for geese trying to raise their young.Frequently Asked Questions About Goose Egg PredationWhat are the signs that an animal has stolen my goose eggs?Identifying egg predation can sometimes be challenging, but there are some common signs:Missing eggs: This is the most obvious sign. If eggs disappear from the nest, predation is likely.Broken eggshells: If predators like foxes, skunks, opossums, or corvids are the culprits, you might find fragments of broken eggshells near the nest. They often leave these behind after consuming the contents.Disturbed nest: An egg thief might leave signs of disturbance, such as scattered nesting material or footprints around the nest.Missing feathers: If the attack is made while the goose is present, there may be some missing feathers near the nest.Whole egg missing: If a snake eats an egg, it will often swallow it whole. There won't be any broken egg shells, just a missing egg.Why do some animals eat eggs whole?Some predators, particularly snakes, are capable of swallowing eggs whole. Their digestive systems are adapted to break down the eggshells and absorb the nutrients. Swallowing an egg whole leaves little to no evidence at the nest site, which makes it harder to identify the predator.How do corvids typically steal eggs?Corvids like crows, ravens, and jays are intelligent egg predators. They usually use their sharp beaks to puncture a small hole in the side of the egg, then they will use their beak to lift the egg and drain its contents. They may then leave behind the empty shell or parts of the shell near the nest.What is the difference between a raccoons attack on a nest and a snakes?Raccoons tend to leave behind broken shells after they eat an egg. The damage will often be messy. Snakes, on the other hand, often swallow eggs whole and leave no traces except the missing egg. A snake attack would be identified by missing eggs, not by shells or egg remains.Do foxes only eat eggs or do they attack adult geese?While foxes will certainly consume eggs, they are also capable predators of adult geese. If a fox encounters a goose in its nest, it might attack the goose first, and then come back for the eggs, although they are more likely to eat unguarded eggs.Do all predators leave broken egg shells?No, not all predators leave broken eggshells. Snakes are known to swallow eggs whole, leaving no sign of the egg, but this is unlikely for the goose eggs as they are too large for many snake species. Also, some predators may carry eggs away from the nest site, so no broken eggshells may be found near the nest itself.Are all egg predators active during the day or at night?Predators have different activity patterns. Raccoons, opossums, and skunks are often nocturnal, while foxes and coyotes may be active both during the day and at night, depending on the location and time of year. Corvids are primarily diurnal (active during the day), so egg predation can happen at all times.How can I protect goose eggs from predators?Protecting goose nests from predators can be challenging but there are a few methods to consider:Secure nesting areas: If possible, provide geese with secure nesting locations, such as islands in ponds, that are more difficult for predators to access.Fencing: Use predator-proof fencing around nesting areas to deter ground-dwelling predators.Guard animals: Some farmers use guard dogs or livestock to protect their flocks from predators.Monitoring: Regularly monitor nests for any signs of predator activity and take necessary precautions.Nest camouflage: Try to ensure the nest is camouflaged by natural vegetation.What is the role of the parent geese in protecting the eggs?Parent geese play a crucial role in protecting their eggs. They guard the nest diligently, often using aggressive displays to deter potential predators. However, when the parent geese are away feeding or grooming, the nest is most vulnerable.Do birds besides corvids steal goose eggs?While corvids like crows and jays are significant egg predators, other birds like gulls can also steal eggs if the opportunity arises.Do chickens eat goose eggs?While it is rare for a chicken to eat a goose egg, it is possible. Chickens have been known to eat their own eggs if they are broken and a cracked goose egg may be eaten. It is not common.Can snakes consume all types of eggs?While some snakes are capable of swallowing goose eggs whole, some snake species may only be able to consume eggs of smaller birds, or the very small or young geese. Large snakes such as pythons can consume an enormous egg, but species of snake more common to North America might not be able to eat a goose egg due to its size.Do eggs attract predators from far away?The scent of eggs can attract some predators, but it is typically more likely that a predator will discover a nest by visual cues or by their established hunting routes. Once a predator discovers an accessible nest, they will be more likely to return.Is egg predation a common problem?Yes, egg predation is a common problem for birds, especially ground-nesting species like geese. A significant number of nests are lost to predation every year. This means that the predation of goose eggs is common in many areas.Do human interactions contribute to the problem of egg predation?Yes, human interactions can indirectly contribute to the problem of egg predation. For example, habitat destruction can reduce the availability of natural food sources for predators, which can lead them to more readily seek out bird nests and eggs. Also, carelessly discarding food can attract opportunistic predators, making them more abundant in certain areas. Sep 17, 2012 3,309 410 251 Ozark, MO I actually have 3 questions but first a little background. I was recently given 6 Sebastopol geese, 4 males and 2 females and a pair of American Buffs. The 2 female Sebbiees are a trio with one of the males so I was advised to get females for the 3 males. I picked up 2 Chinese and a Toulouse goose because that is all I could afford and locate. All of them are supposed to be of laying age. One of the male Sebbiees is attacking another, the male I thought belonged to the trio but the attacking male seems to want to be the alpha male and has chosen one of the other Sebbiees that is supposed to be a male, to be his mate and she(?) is attacking the same male as her(?) mate. It looks like she(?) is trying to be the alpha female. I try to keep the one being attacked separate at night but when I let them out of the run during the day, I let him do as he pleases. The attacking male seems to be neck cuddling with the attacking female which is what makes me think that one is a female. He seems to be VERY protective of her. I found one soft shell when we moved them from quarantine to the coop with the other birds but I don't know who laid it. There is no possibility that it was a chicken, quinea or duck egg. I have read that female geese have what would you call it? A lower hanging belly? Than the males but the ones I was told were females, this will be their first year to lay. Is the lower hanging belly true in all goose breeds? Is there anything I can do about the alpha male attacking the other male? I have 11 ducks and as far as I can tell only one of them is a drake. A couple of days ago I went out to see why one of the geese was hollering and found one of the ducks, a female. I think, hanging onto the goose's feathers. The goose got loose and the duck went off it again. A note: I have a coop that is enclosed and an addition that has no door on it, all surrounded by fence giving them an enclosed run. The geese don't want to sleep in the coop and the ducks used to sleep in the coop until I put the geese in the addition. Now, the ducks have decided to sleep in the addition with the geese. On Saturday or Sunday, I found 11 eggs in the addition, marked 2 and left them in the nests. The next day is when I think I found the duck attacking the geese. Yesterday, I went out and only found 7 eggs and only one of them was one of those I marked. I left it in the nest and a 2nd one, unmarked, in the other nest. Today, I went out and collected 5 eggs and none of them were marked. I brought all of them in. This question is: Do geese break the eggs of other birds? And since I found no shells, do they eat them? Jul 7, 2010 1,008 572 323 Denmark Females don't always have a lower hanging belly than the males, so don't use that as a guide to sexing them. Voices and behavior are much better markers. To stop a gander from attacking another gander you can either remove all females from the males or remove excess males from the females. Ganders usually get along fine with each other. But let a woman in their lives... Your "female" attack ducks behavior seems very drake-like. I bet "she" is another drake. Geese don't usually eat eggs. And if they do, they'd more likely than not leave a huge mess. But crows, magpies, ravens, jays and jacksdaws do eat eggs, and they're very good at stealing them and flying off with them to eat them where there's more peace and quiet. My money's on one of those guys being the culprit. Maybe this will help determine sex of geese. Sep 17, 2012 3,309 410 251 Ozark, MO Females don't always have a lower hanging belly than the males, so don't use that as a guide to sexing them. Voices and behavior are much better markers. To stop a gander from attacking another gander you can either remove all females from the males or remove excess males from the females. Ganders usually get along fine with each other. But let a woman in their lives... Your "female" attack ducks behavior seems very drake-like. I bet "she" is another drake. Geese don't usually eat eggs. And if they do, they'd more likely than not leave a huge mess. But crows, magpies, ravens, jays and jacksdaws do eat eggs, and they're very good at stealing them and flying off with them to eat them where there's more peace and quiet. My money's on one of those guys being the culprit. You think the two who are "necking" could both be males? How do you tell the differences in their voices? I have a lot of cross breed chickens and until they crow, grow pointed saddle feathers or tail streamers, I can't tell which are boys and which are girls, the combs and wattles are much smaller than my Welsummer's comb and wattles and his cross breed children, I can tell much earlier who is a boy and who is a girl but my other rooster is a Crested Polish and his children have small combs and wattles. Do Sebastopol geese hens ALWAYS have the hanging bellies? If so, when do they get/develop them? Thanks, Sylvia Sep 17, 2012 3,309 410 251 Ozark, MO Maybe this will help determine sex of geese. Hmm, I went out there to check because I haven't noticed if he was getting between me and the one I thought/think is a goose and I still don't know. The Chinese geese got between me and the other geese, all except the Sebastopol who were being beaten up, he went into the flock when I went toward them but when they got up and started walking off and I didn't follow him, he went a different direction. He was sitting away from the others to begin with. I couldn't tell the Sebastopol sexes by their necks and the two I thought/they were pairing up, didn't act like the video said. The one I think is a male did not try to get between me and the one I thought he chose for a mate. The Chinese geese, now one of them seems to have a longer neck and the other one seemed to have a fatter neck but they both got between me and the others. Sep 17, 2012 3,309 410 251 Ozark, MO I think maybe I need to post pictures to see if anyone can identify the males from the females and I need to have some colored zip ties to mark them. I can tell most of them one from the other but that doesn't tell me if they are boys or girls. Post as good a pic as you can front whole body. Also if they are young you may not see noticeable protecting yet. My gander who is 7yrs old is already in protective mode with his girls. I hate it when they won't let one be in the flock, are you going to try and put the outsider up once you figure out sexes? Jun 10, 2014 1,384 353 148 In my Sebastapols, there's a significant difference in size between the geese and the Ganders - and I was noticable before they got to adult size. There are significant behavioral differences, but the physical ones are very noticeable. How old are these birds? Goose eggs, being large and nutritious, are a tempting target for a variety of predators. The answer to What animals steal goose eggs? is quite extensive, encompassing a range of creatures from the ground, air, and even water. Predators of goose eggs are opportunistic, often taking advantage of unguarded nests or moments when the parent geese are away. Key culprits include:Mammals:Foxes are notorious egg thieves and will readily consume goose eggs. They are adept hunters and often patrol areas where geese nest.Raccoons are highly adaptable and intelligent scavengers. They are known for raiding nests and will not hesitate to feast on eggs.Skunks are another common predator, often digging into nests and consuming eggs.Opossums are opportunistic and will take advantage of any unprotected eggs they find.Coyotes are larger predators that may also include goose eggs in their diet, especially if they are nesting in areas where they roam.Rats and even larger rodents can also be a problem, especially for smaller eggs or in situations where geese nest in less secure areas.Domestic dogs and cats, especially if they are allowed to roam freely, might also raid nests and eat eggs.Birds:Crows and other corvids like magpies, jacksdaws, and ravens are significant egg predators. They are intelligent and will often seek out nests.Gulls, especially in coastal areas, can be a threat, particularly if nests are not well concealed.Blue jays are also known to steal eggs from other birds nests.Reptiles:Various snakes, particularly rat snakes and other larger species, are capable of swallowing goose eggs whole. It's important to understand that the specific predators will vary depending on the geographic location and habitat of the nesting geese. Regardless, all the above animals are potential egg thieves, presenting a challenge for geese trying to raise their young.Frequently Asked Questions About Goose Egg PredationWhat are the signs that an animal has stolen my goose eggs?Identifying egg predation can sometimes be challenging, but there are some common signs:Missing eggs: This is the most obvious sign. If eggs disappear from the nest, predation is likely.Broken eggshells: If predators like foxes, skunks, opossums, or corvids are the culprits, you might find fragments of broken eggshells near the nest. They often leave these behind after consuming the contents.Disturbed nest: An egg thief might leave signs of disturbance, such as scattered nesting material or footprints around the nest.Missing feathers: If the attack is made while the goose is present, there may be some missing feathers near the nest.Whole egg missing: If a snake eats an egg, it will often swallow it whole. There won't be any broken egg shells, just a missing egg.Why do some animals eat eggs whole?Some predators, particularly snakes, are capable of swallowing eggs whole. Their digestive systems are adapted to break down the eggshells and absorb the nutrients. Swallowing an egg whole leaves little to no evidence at the nest site, which makes it harder to identify the predator.How do corvids typically steal eggs?Corvids like crows, ravens, and jays are intelligent egg predators. They usually use their sharp beaks to puncture a small hole in the side of the egg, then they will use their beak to lift the egg and drain its contents. They may then leave behind the empty shell or parts of the shell near the nest.What is the difference between a raccoons attack on a nest and a snakes?Raccoons tend to leave behind broken shells after they eat an egg. The damage will often be messy. Snakes, on the other hand, often swallow eggs whole and leave no traces except the missing egg. A snake attack would be identified by missing eggs, not by shells or egg remains.Do foxes only eat eggs or do they attack adult geese?While foxes will certainly consume eggs, they are also capable predators of adult geese. If a fox encounters a goose on its nest, it might attack the goose first, and then come back for the eggs, although they are more likely to eat unguarded eggs.Do all predators leave broken egg shells?No, not all predators leave broken eggshells. Snakes are known to swallow eggs whole, leaving no sign of the egg, but this is unlikely for the goose eggs as they are too large for many snake species. Also, some predators may carry eggs away from the nest site, so no broken eggshells may be found near the nest itself.Are all egg predators active during the day or at night?Predators have different activity patterns. Raccoons, opossums, and skunks are often nocturnal, while foxes and coyotes may be active both during the day and at night, depending on the location and time of year. Corvids are primarily diurnal (active during the day), so egg predation can happen at all times.How can I protect goose eggs from predators?Protecting goose nests from predators can be challenging but there are a few methods to consider:Secure nesting areas: If possible, provide geese with secure nesting locations, such as islands in ponds, that are more difficult for predators to access.Fencing: Use predator-proof fencing around nesting areas to deter ground-dwelling predators.Guard animals: Some farmers use guard dogs or livestock to protect their flocks from predators.Monitoring: Regularly monitor nests for any signs of predator activity and take necessary precautions.Nest camouflage: Try to ensure the nest is camouflaged by natural vegetation.What is the role of the parent geese in protecting the eggs?Parent geese play a crucial role in protecting their eggs. They guard the nest diligently, often using aggressive displays to deter potential predators. However, when the parent geese are away feeding or grooming, the nest is most vulnerable.Do birds besides corvids steal goose eggs?While corvids like crows and jays are significant egg predators, other birds like gulls can also steal eggs if the opportunity arises.Do chickens eat goose eggs?While it is rare for a chicken to eat a goose egg, it is possible. Chickens have been known to eat their own eggs if they are broken and a cracked goose egg may be eaten. It is not common.Can snakes consume all types of eggs?While some snakes are capable of swallowing goose eggs whole, some snake species may only be able to consume eggs of smaller birds, or the very small or young geese. Large snakes such as pythons can consume an enormous egg, but species of snake more common to North America might not be able to eat a goose egg due to its size.Do eggs attract predators from far away?The scent of eggs can attract some predators, but it is typically more likely that a predator will discover a nest by visual cues or by their established hunting routes. Once a predator discovers an accessible nest, they will be more likely to return.Is egg predation a common problem?Yes, human interactions can indirectly contribute to the problem of egg predation. For example, habitat destruction can reduce the availability of natural food sources for predators, which can lead them to more readily seek out bird nests and eggs. Also, carelessly discarding food can attract opportunistic predators, making them more abundant in certain areas. Feb 5, 2012 17,823 179 326 Port Townsend, Washington I feel silly starting a thread for this, but I promised my artist friend I'd ask. She's bought a place with land, and a 2 acre fenced yard. She loves to work with goose eggs, and likes to do cut out patterns and then enamel and paint them....really lovely. Now she wants geese for eggs, and has no other preference. Not to eat, just to look at and lay eggs for her art. Any suggestions my goose oriented fellow avians?? She did not express any concern about friendliness or noise, but I warned her. Told her Sebastopol (sp?) maybe friendliest, and the bigger the goose, the bigger the egg, but you know how artists are. Can she mix multiple geese breeds without problems (other than cross breeding)? Thanks so much! Apr 14, 2011 5,531 295 273 Central Oregon The Chinese are supposed to lay the most eggs and have the longest laying season. I can make my ducks keep laying by keeping them with light min. of 12 hours per day. Can you do anything for geese, or is it just spring and summer (if you don't let them sit)? Thanks so much, Mar 22, 2011 17,990 13,164 761 My Coop My Coop Increase day light works for any bird! Thank, Apr 14, 2011 5,531 295 273 Central Oregon You might get them to start laying sooner, but the groyling geese have a short laying season and stop laying before the days get short. Perhaps the swag geese will respond to increased light. They have a longer laying season. Apr 27 0007 1,607 35 206 Central MA Check out this breed comparison from Metzger Farms. They are wonderful people to deal with. I've got several different duck breeds from them for 9 years. My newest purchase from them is a pair of pilgrim goslings coming at the end of April and I am sooooo looking forward to having them!!! Feb 5, 2012 17,823 179 326 Port Townsend, Washington Wow, what a great link! Didn't know there was that much info even known about them....fertility,egg size, qty, weight, even wedding ability? Your a superstar Goose Girl! Check out this breed comparison from Metzger Farms. They are wonderful people to deal with. I've got several different duck breeds from them for 9 years. My newest purchase from them is a pair of pilgrim goslings coming at the end of April and I am sooooo looking forward to having them!!! Last edited: Feb 18, 2012 Apr 27, 2007 1,607 35 206 Central MA Wow, what a great link! Didn't know there was that much info even known about them....fertility,egg size, qty, weight, even wedding ability? Your a superstar Goose Girl! Check out Metzgers entire website. It is chock FULL of information on waterfowl. Plus, if you sign up for their newsletter emails you will get even more info as well as videos and pictures. Feb 5, 2012 17,823 179 326 Port Townsend, Washington You are using an out of date browser. It may not display this or other websites correctly. You should upgrade or use an alternative browser. Thread starter 2dancingrats Start date Apr 11, 2011 Jun 17, 2009 247 10 136 Bay City, Michigan I have two broody geese. I think one of them stole all of the eggs the other was sitting on and added them to her clutch. The other day, I noticed Wanda's nest was all messed up and she was acting disturbed. The next day, she had one egg she was rolling around in the pen and then built a new nest around it. When I checked her original nest, it was empty. Randi's nest is right next to hers, and Wanda did take a short break. Could Randi have stolen her eggs? I've seen Randi take a break and Wanda will go back and forth between the two nests while she's gone. So I wonder if Randi just decided she nry as well sit on all of the eggs in one nest. I wonder if Wanda will wait for her to take a break and take over the nest. Not really a question, just wanted to share the fowl drama! Last edited: Apr 11, 2011 Nov 19, 2008 1,416 18 161 Idaho You should separate the two geese and give them each an undisturbed nest. The eggs will not hatch if they keep rolling them back and forth - they may crack or break the eggs or spend too much time rolling and letting the eggs get cold while they are at it.

**To geese steal eggs. Goose eggs. Are goose eggs protected. What animal steals goose eggs.**