

# TALL TALES FROM THE POND

Part 2

All photos taken on our property by Eric Auzins  
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## Prologue to Part 2

Over the years, the island in the middle of the pond had always been a favourite spot for Canada geese to nest. In early spring, vicious fights often broke out between the ganders as they tried to claim this prized breeding spot. Usually one pair won and nested on the island. Predators such as racoons, fox and coyotes lived nearby so the nest was in constant danger. With the nest experiencing heavy predation along with continued challenges from other pairs of geese, quite often the nesting pair did not have a successful hatch. Quite a few years went by without any nesting activity.

However, in 2018 things changed.

Wild turkeys live here. In the spring of 2018, the stripped, bony carcass of a turkey that had not survived the winter was resting beside the island. The goose prepared her nest as usual and, one morning, that turkey carcass was right beside her nest and remained there while she incubated those eggs and had a successful hatch.

The pair proudly paraded their brood and then left that pond to raise their goslings elsewhere.

Questions remain as to how that carcass got up from the water's edge to that nest and did the goose use it as camouflage and was it the reason this nest was successful?

Goose on nest in 2018



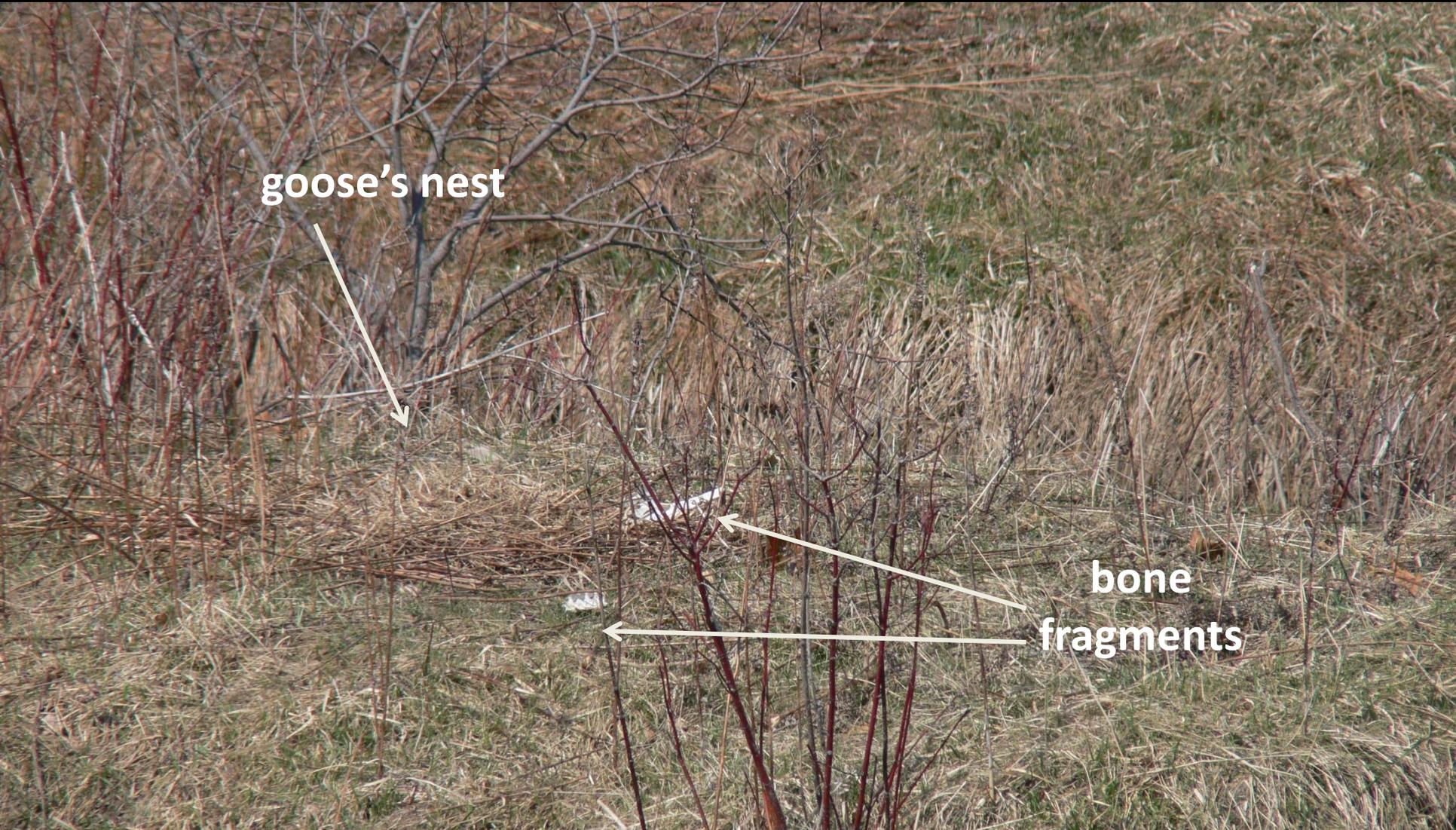
Turkey carcass



Seven goslings hatched in 2018

No nesting happened again until this spring of 2021 when a new pair comes to nest.

In early April, the new pair of geese arrive at the pond. The goose begins to prepare her nest right in the same spot as the previous goose had hers and some carcass bones are still there.



We think they are a new pair since they are very wary of us. The gander takes a very aggressive stance when we go for our walk after lunch down to the pond. The pair that used to come knew us and didn't even move when we went by and never lowered their heads or stood aggressively.

A photograph of a goose sitting on a nest made of sticks and twigs in a field of tall, dry grass. The goose is positioned in the center of the frame, facing left. A black speech bubble with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image, pointing towards the goose. The background consists of a dense field of tall, dry grasses and some bare, reddish-brown branches.

I hope my  
little one's  
will hatch  
on Mother's  
Day!

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the goose starts to incubate her eggs. It takes 25-28 days for the eggs to hatch.



Mom, do we eat  
goose eggs?

No dear. They are too  
big for us and are on  
the land. We eat food  
that is in the water like  
those juicy plants and  
insects that you like.



Finally she is on the nest. I now know that those turtles won't eat her eggs but I am keeping a close eye on everyone else!

Will the goose have a nice quiet time  
incubating her eggs?

Will this pair have a successful hatch?

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“TALL TALES FROM THE POND”**