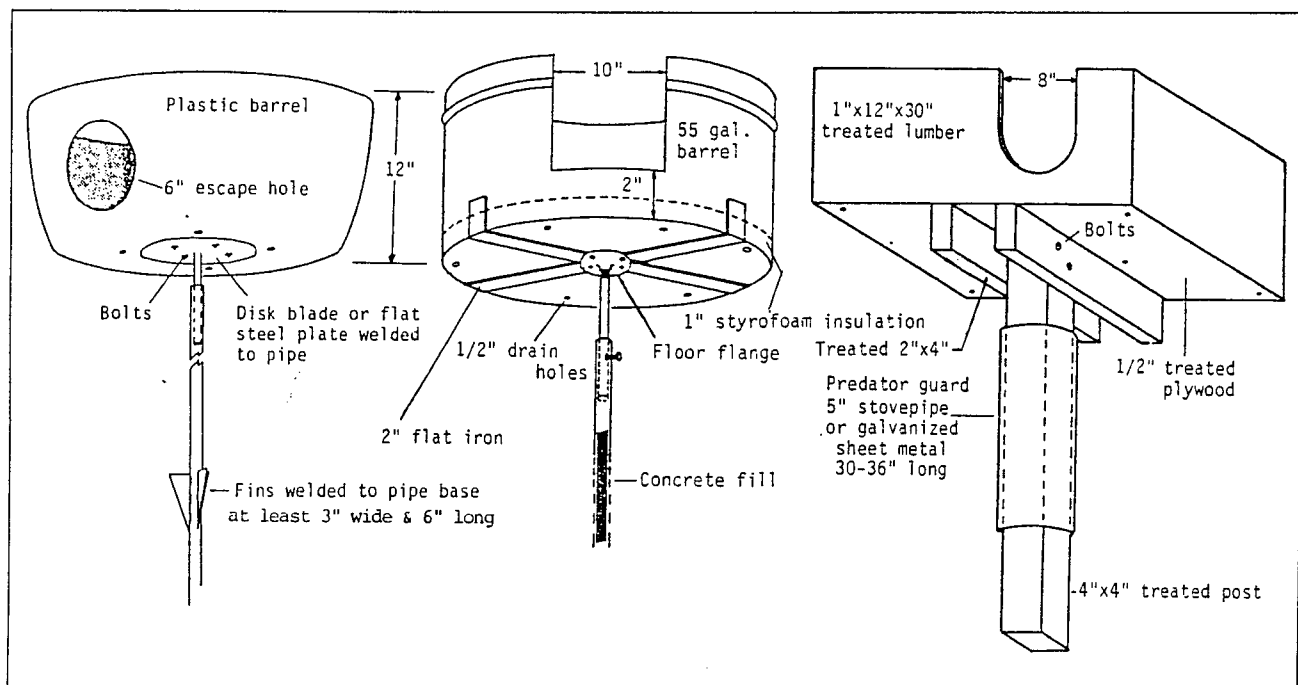
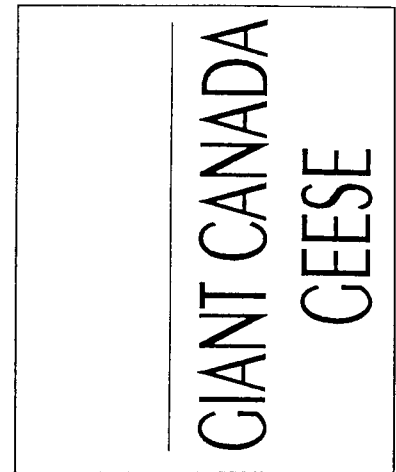


Post Structures

Post structures come in various designs, but all are basically a tub or box mounted on a post that is driven into the pond bottom (Figure 3). They have the advantages of being simple to construct, relatively inexpensive, easy to install, nearly predator proof when installed correctly and commercially available. Their disadvantages are that they require annual maintenance, can be easily pushed over by ice, and cannot be used where water levels fluctuate dramatically.

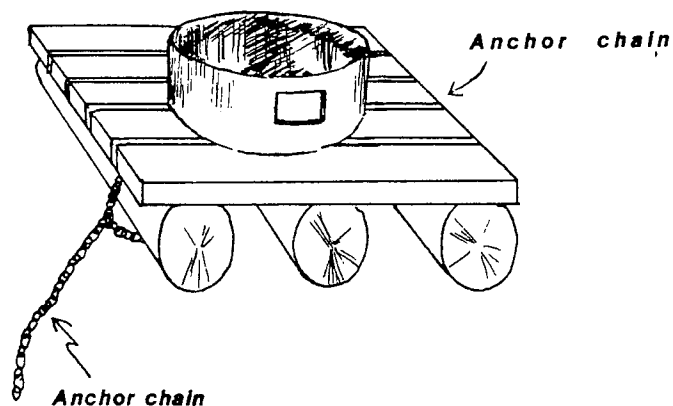
Geese will use a variety of nest compartment sizes, but 26 to 32-inch wide structures are most manageable. Structures should be 8 to 12 inches deep so they retain the nest material. Because goslings and ducklings have difficulty getting over a four-inch vertical rise, a slot or hole must be cut near the bottom of the structure, or a six-inch wide hardware cloth (1/4- to 1/2-inch mesh) ladder must be installed so goslings can exit the structure. Without an exit, the structure is a death trap. Drainage holes must be drilled in the bottom of any solid structure so the nest material remains dry.



Steel pipe makes the best over-water mounting post because it is durable, easy to install and difficult for predators to climb. A good choice is heavy-duty pipe with a 1-1/2-inch inside diameter. For soft pond bottoms or areas subject to ice movement, heavy duty pipe with a two- to three-inch inside diameter is better. Suitable pipe can often be obtained at salvage yards. To prevent bending from ice movement, the pipe can be filled with concrete to the normal water level. To prevent the

Figure 3. Three examples of post structures for giant Canada geese.

FIGURE 18.
CANADA GOOSE NEST PLATFORM



MATERIALS: One 8" diameter cedar pole - 12' long
Four 2"x6"x8' boards
One 22" diameter round metal washtub

