

# Canada's Inter-Agency Wild Bird Influenza Survey — 2006

## Species Data Sheet: Light-bellied Brant

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The goal of the survey is twofold: to characterize the strains of avian influenza viruses and to ensure early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains in wild birds in Canada. Expanding on the 2005 nation-wide survey of influenza virus strains of wild ducks, this survey places a greater focus on birds that migrate regularly between Canada's North Atlantic region and Europe or that spend some part of their year in close proximity to birds that winter in Europe. The expansion of the survey complements work being carried out in the United States, which is surveying western (Pacific Flyway) populations.



**Species:** *Branta bernicla hrota*  
Light-bellied Brant

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### Reason for inclusion in the Wild Bird Influenza Survey

The Eastern High Arctic race of the Light-bellied Brant is a trans-Atlantic migrant, and because of that is a primary target for the survey. It breeds in Canada's eastern High Arctic, stages in Iceland, and spends the winter primarily in Ireland, but also sometimes in coastal areas of northern Europe. The Atlantic race is a secondary target because it mingles on the breeding grounds with waterfowl that migrate to Europe to overwinter.

### Migratory range

The Light-bellied Brant (Atlantic and Eastern High Arctic races) breeds from the central Canadian Arctic to Greenland, the Svalbard archipelago (off the northern coast of Norway), and the Franz Josef Land archipelago (off the northwestern coast of Russia) north of the Barents Sea.

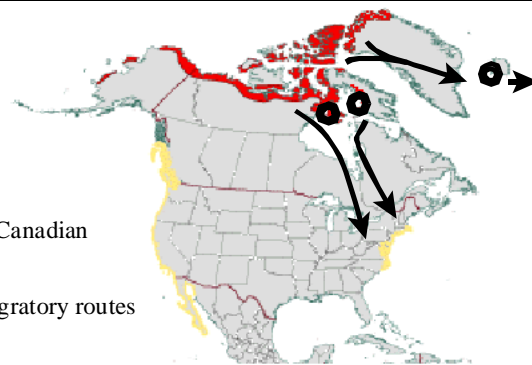
#### Species Range

■ Breeding Only

■ Wintering Only

● Approximate location of Canadian sampling sites

➔ General post-breeding migratory routes of Light-bellied Brant



### Dates in Canada

Brant arrive at their breeding grounds by early June. They are seen flying overhead again in mid-September to early October on their way south to the United States or east to Europe.

### Canada's Inter-Agency Wild Bird Influenza Survey Partners

The survey is coordinated by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre. Partners include the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment Canada, provincial/territorial representatives of public health, animal health, and wildlife, the Centre for Coastal Health, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the government of Iceland.

### Contacts

Survey Director:  
Dr. Ted Leighton  
Room 1622, Veterinary Medicine Building  
52 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4  
Telephone: 306-966-7281  
Ted.Leighton@usask.ca

Migratory Birds:  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
70 Cremazie St.  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 819-997-2800  
or 1-800-668-6767  
Fax : 819-994-1412 [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

The Light-bellied Brant is protected in Canada under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service.