

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

Species Data Sheet: Canada Goose

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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 canadensis* Canada Goose

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Reason for inclusion in the Wild Bird Influenza Survey

The migrant population of Canada Geese targeted by the survey is the North Atlantic population. A small percentage of that population breeds in Greenland, and some birds from Canada migrate to moult in Greenland, where they could contact other waterfowl carrying Eurasian strains of avian influenza.

Migratory range

The Canada Goose has a very broad range, and the species as a whole is composed of several distinct populations with different migratory routes.

Dates in Canada

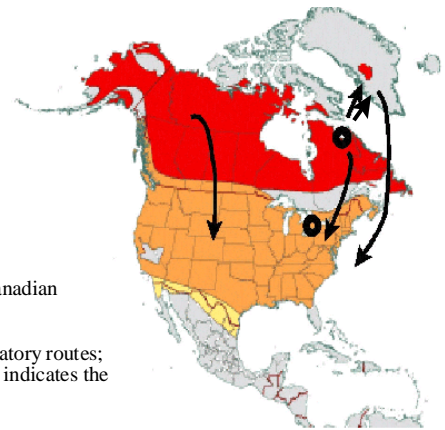
Canada Geese remain in Canada year round at southern latitudes. Further north, where they breed only in the summer, they arrive in mid- to late April and remain until freeze-up, the last often not leaving until December.

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.

Species Range

- Breeding Only
- Resident Year Round
- Wintering Only
- Approximate location of Canadian sampling sites
- ➔ General post-breeding migratory routes; migratory path to Greenland indicates the moult migration



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