

Species Data Sheet: Cackling Goose

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

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 hutchinsii* Cackling Goose

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Reason for inclusion in the Wild Bird Influenza Survey

Because it may contact trans-Atlantic migrant geese on the breeding grounds, the Cackling Goose is a secondary target for the survey.

Migratory range

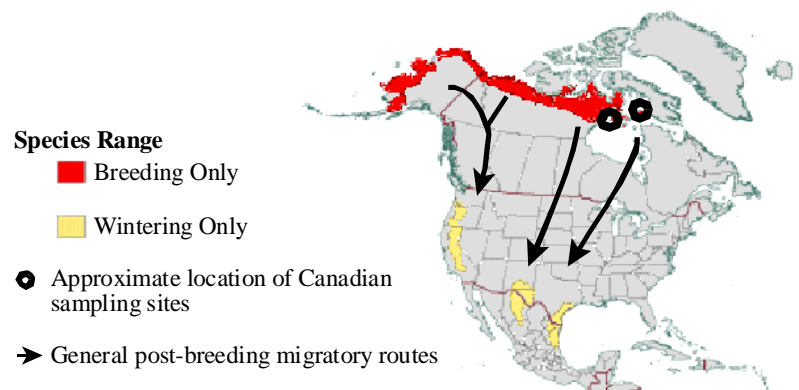
Cackling Geese breed on the tundra on the northwestern coast of North America and overwinter in the western United States and the south, straddling the Mexican border.

Dates in Canada

Cackling Geese arrive with their larger cousins, Canada Geese. They can be seen on the migration route starting in April and flying overhead again in early September as their northern lakes freeze up.

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.



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