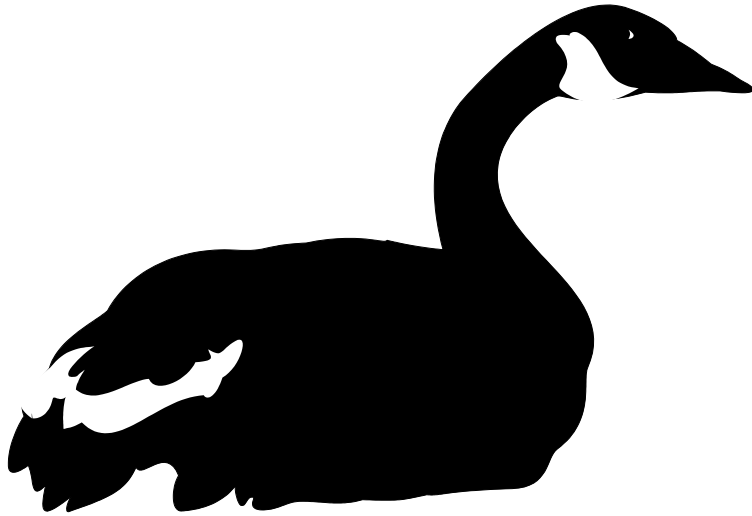


PACIFIC NORTHWEST GOOSE MANAGEMENT



*A JOINT PROGRAM OF THE
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
AND THE
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE*

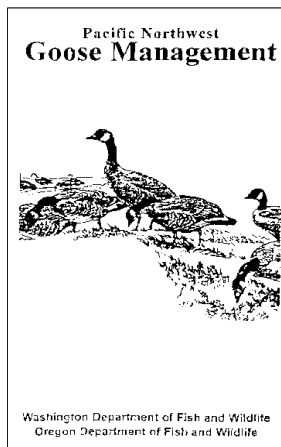




Welcome!

The Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions have approved permitting requirements for northwest Oregon and southwest Washington goose hunters, which include passing a written examination. This booklet is designed to assist you in successfully passing by providing information about goose management issues in the region and ways to identify geese while hunting. Follow these steps:

1. Review all the materials in this booklet carefully by yourself and with friends and family. Purchase the videotape – *Pacific Northwest Goose Management* – which will supplement booklet information.
2. Once you understand these materials, you will be ready to attend the examination. Once you pass (you have up to three attempts), a goose hunting permit will be issued to you.



Pacific NW Goose Management Video

Easy To Order!!

In Washington call

(360) 491-1332

or website

<http://www.cco.net/~vland>

Visa, Mastercard, Checks, Or
Money Orders Accepted.

In Oregon call

1-800-845-9448

WHY IS THIS TRAINING REQUIRED?

Goose management in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington is one of the most challenging aspects of our state waterfowl programs. The management of mixed subspecies of Canada geese on wintering grounds can make decision processes very complex. For over a decade, goose hunting opportunities in this region have been very restrictive with complicated, but necessary regulations, primarily formulated to protect the dusky Canada goose. While these rules may seem confusing and inconvenient for hunters, they have been implemented to insure hunters remain in an important management role. This is a priority for our agencies.

However, with increasing overall numbers of Canada geese and the mandate to protect the limited population of dusky Canada geese, new challenges are ahead. Agricultural depredation issues are increasing and we must work together to assist landowners. If the hunting community can prove its ability to show restraint, take the time to learn goose identification in the field, and follow all regulations, we can assist in controlling goose populations. This is definitely a win-win situation. To take these issues lightly will mean failure and the reduction or loss of hunter participation in the future. You are an important partner in our management endeavors.

Use this home study course not only to improve your skills but to establish your role as a representative of the hunting community. You are in control of our future hunting opportunities and we want to help you be successful in every way. Good luck!



*If entering private lands, always ask permission first and adhere to all landowner requests. **Don't abuse the privilege to hunt on private lands.***

INTRODUCTION

Farmers, waterfowl hunters, and wildlife managers in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington are faced with problems for which there are no simple solutions. In short, several factors have combined to create almost unsolvable difficulties. Among them are:

1. Abundant numbers of Canada geese which depredate (damage) agricultural crops and pastures during winter and spring months.
2. Some of the seven subspecies of Canada geese that make up the wintering population require special protection and management efforts to help them recover.
3. All Canada goose subspecies look generally alike. This creates difficulty for hunters who are asked to harvest some subspecies but not others, and an equally difficult problem for wildlife managers who must regulate hunting to ensure protection for subspecies that need special consideration.

This booklet is intended to give a basic understanding of the goose management issues in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, some background on the geese that winter in the region and reference information to help identify all the relevant Canada goose subspecies. The videotape – *Pacific Northwest Goose Management* – is intended to supplement this information.



A subspecies of Canada goose is defined by scientific authorities as a distinct taxonomic entity based on many physical and geographical factors. For example, some goose subspecies vary greatly in size, such as the cackling and western Canada goose. This significant size difference is a result of gene pools diverging over thousands of years and influenced by numerous environmental conditions. Wildlife agencies in the Pacific Northwest have legislative mandates to preserve the natural diversity of wildlife present in the region.



History

In recent years, record numbers of geese have wintered in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, generally ranging from 150,000 to 200,000. Prior to the 1970s, the winter goose population averaged fewer than 25,000 geese, and most of these were the dusky Canada goose subspecies. The dusky population, however, began declining about 1979, with an accelerated drop in the mid-1980s. That decline was attributed to lower production of goslings, combined with high harvest in wintering areas. Restrictive hunting seasons were implemented in the 1980s to reduce harvest of duskys, but likely increased survival rates for all geese. Hunting mortality of duskys has been greatly reduced due to current cooperative management efforts.

The reduced production of duskys in Alaska is largely the result of natural habitat changes brought about by the 1964 Alaska earthquake. The earthquake raised the level of the Copper River Delta, near Cordova, which is the core breeding area of the dusky Canada goose. This event eventually altered the quality and quantity of nesting habitat which resulted in increased predation on eggs and goslings. Prior to 1964, the low elevation of the delta and periodic flooding during both high and storm tides maintained broad expanses of sedge meadow bisected by drainage guts and sloughs. A mixed forb/low shrub community was found on slightly elevated slough banks. Brackish conditions significantly influenced productivity of waters and controlled composition of plant communities. Surveys in the 1950s showed geese strongly selecting these mixed forb/low shrub areas for nest sites. Flooding was then a major cause of nest losses. Nest predation by gulls was minor and mammalian predators were considered rare on the outer delta. Overall, nest success was usually favorable.

The 1964 earthquake uplifted the Copper River Delta by 2 to 6 feet, drastically altering the frequency of tidal inundation and promoting drying of slough banks and meadow. The drier conditions and lack of suppression by saltwater 'released' the growth of shrubs such as alder and willow that are now 10-20 feet tall and extensive over much of the delta. Reduced salinity is also thought to have altered the nutrient levels and aquatic productivity, possibly affecting food resources for adult geese and their broods.

During the past decade, increased predation by brown bears, wolves and coyotes has had a major impact on dusky production, although the intensity is variable from year to year. Gull predation has also become more common in recent years. Thus, the productivity of dusky Canada geese is being affected by gradual long-term habitat changes, annual conditions such as weather, variable levels of predation, and the age structure of the population. Canada geese generally do not nest until their third year of life.

Many actions are underway to improve dusky production. Cooperative efforts between the Chugach National Forest, Ducks Unlimited, and fish and wildlife agencies have created over 500 artificial nest islands on the delta in the attempt to provide secure nest sites away from brushy corridors most heavily used by predators. Use of these structures is gradually increasing, and so far nest success has been higher for birds using the structures than those using traditional nest sites. Use of nest islands by geese is a "learned" experience and the degree to which this program will help improve production will be seen in the years ahead. Ways to deal with predation have been explored thoroughly by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and some steps have been taken (liberalization of regulations affecting coyote harvest and translocation of bears); however, truly effective measures to limit predator losses are either prohibitively expensive or socially unacceptable. Cutbacks in Alaska seasons have also occurred.

Middleton Island, located in the Gulf of Alaska about 60 miles offshore from the Copper River Delta, is the site of recent transplants of dusky Canada geese in an attempt to establish a new breeding population. Middleton is free of mammalian predators and all goose hunting was closed there in 1996, but it is too

soon to measure the success of this program. Recent surveys indicate dusky Canada geese have been successful in nesting on the island, thus enhancing population numbers.

It's hoped new ways can be found to improve dusky production and survival. It has been a long time since there has been consistently good production on the delta and managers remain concerned because the population is becoming top heavy with older geese. For now, it is important that harvest be kept to a bare minimum to conserve this population.

Beginning in the 1970s, the Taverner's Canada goose population increased from fewer than 2,000 to more than 50,000. They now represent a significant percentage of the geese wintering in this region. Reasons for this increase are unknown but may be simply due to secure breeding habitat in Alaska, combined with changing farm practices in the Willamette Valley and along the lower Columbia River, which create favorable wintering habitat.

Along with the buildup in the Taverner's population, numbers of the resident western Canada goose also increased steadily during the 1970s and 1980s, particularly between 1985-90. Western Canada goose populations have been fairly stable since the mid-1990s. This is the only subspecies that nests in both states.

The cackling Canada goose, a relatively new winter visitor to this region, also experienced a sharp decline throughout the Pacific Flyway. Numbers dropped from an estimated 400,000 in the late 1960s to fewer than 25,000 in the mid-1980s. The decline is believed to be largely due to sport and subsistence harvest, and the season for this subspecies was closed during the mid-1980s.

Subsistence harvest, the taking of animals by native peoples for food and survival, is an important cultural need in some regions of Canada and Alaska. This practice is recognized by wildlife management agencies but cooperative agreements are important to protect shared wildlife populations. The cackler is one Canada goose subspecies taken in substantial numbers by native hunters on the Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Delta of western Alaska. The Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan, signed by all coastal states, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and native Alaskans, calls for restrictions on both the breeding and wintering grounds to protect cackling, white-fronted, emperor, and black brant geese. Subsistence hunting does not occur on the Copper River Delta and does not affect dusky Canada geese. However, state and federal harvest management for all geese on the wintering grounds must be weighed against the needs of native peoples.

In the early 1990s, the cackler fall flight was estimated at more than 160,000 birds, reaching minimum Pacific Flyway Council (an organization composed of the 11 western states) objective levels of 110,000 (three year average), and warranting a reopening of the cackler season for both subsistence and sport hunters. Along with this buildup, there was a significant increase in the proportion of the birds wintering in this region with a proportional decrease in traditional wintering areas of California. Cacklers are now the most numerous subspecies wintering here, with a population of about 150,000.

A much smaller proportion of the wintering goose flock is made up of the lesser and Vancouver Canada goose subspecies. Small numbers of Aleutian Canada geese, a recovering subspecies, winter along our coast and a few have been observed along the lower Columbia River and in the Willamette Valley. As this population increases, more birds can be expected to occur in the region.

To summarize, northwest Oregon and southwest Washington are now wintering more Canada geese than at any other time in recorded history. This winter population includes seven subspecies, which are closely related, and which look generally alike. Within this group are found moderate numbers of dusky Canada geese which need protection. Hunters may occasionally encounter snow and white-fronted geese, also.

Large numbers of geese are contributing to increased crop and pasture depredation problems for many landowners. However, because of the problems with dusky Canada geese, sport hunting as an effective means of controlling the overall goose population has been difficult to implement.

CANADA GOOSE SUBSPECIES - IDENTIFICATION



Dusky Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*)

The dusky is a medium-sized goose with a generally dark body coloration. Body feathers are typically a rich chocolate brown, but may also tend toward very dark gray. Weight ranges from 6 ½ to 10 pounds. Culmen (bill) length ranges between 40 and 50 millimeters.

Duskys are fairly vocal geese and generally fly in small flocks, usually fewer than 40. However, they often intermix with other subspecies on the wintering grounds, so flock size is not a good indicator of subspecies. Duskys are relatively less wary than some of the other Canada goose subspecies and will readily use small fields, even fields ringed with brush. This behavior makes them vulnerable and is one reason they may be unduly affected by harvest when mixes with other, more wary subspecies.



Major Identification Points – dusky Canada goose

1. Generally brown cast to body feathers, although the degree of darkness is variable.
2. The dusky is larger than the cackler, Aleutian, Taverner's and lesser; and smaller than the Vancouver and western.
3. The dusky is easily confused with the Taverner's. The dusky wing tends to be broader in relation to its length than the Taverner's which appears longer and narrower in relation to body size.
4. Red neck collars (and some green) have only been placed on duskys. Collar observation programs assist in tracking birds over time and help determine annual survival rates.
5. If a bird seems unwary, comes right in, flies low, etc., be cautious, this is common behavior for a dusky.
6. Culmen length falls between 40 and 50 millimeters.



Taverner's Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis taverneri*)

The Taverner's Canada goose nests throughout a broad belt of tundra bordering the west and northwest coast of Alaska. Unlike the dusky, Taverner's are widely dispersed over a large geographical area so that it is difficult to monitor nest success or gosling survival. Because of its wide dispersion, this bird is not subject to significant subsistence harvest or concentrated predation.

Taverner's numbers increased from a few thousand in the late 1960s to more than 50,000 in recent years. Changing agricultural practices, with a shift toward large, open fields and to crops such as rye grass and winter wheat, may simply be favoring this subspecies. It is also a wary bird and difficult for hunters to bag.

The Taverner's goose is a significant component of the geese which winter in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. Taverner's Canada geese also occur in the Columbia Basin of Oregon and Washington. Harvest levels in recent years have not been sufficient to prevent growth of this population. This goose in particular, due to its large numbers, has contributed notably to agricultural crop depredation problems. **It is one bird we would most like to target in our hunting season, but is also the one most difficult to harvest consistently.**

This goose tends to fly in large flocks, sometimes exceeding several hundred. It is wary, often circling for a considerable time before landing. It prefers large, open fields and tends to avoid small fields or ones ringed with trees or brush. The Taverner's, like others subspecies, is rarely found in pure flocks and is often mixed with other subspecies.

Where possible, hunters can focus efforts on Taverner's by hunting larger fields, using immense decoy spreads and shooting from pit blinds or by laying out under camouflage netting. Patience and extra work is needed in decoying these large flocks, but it can be very rewarding.



Major Identification Points – Taverner's Canada goose

1. Generally smaller than the dusky (there is usually a 20 to 30 percent weight difference). It is substantially smaller than the western or Vancouver subspecies. The Taverner's is about the same size as the lesser and is larger than the cackler.
2. Generally lighter in color than the cackler, dusky or Vancouver, but darker than the western. Color by itself is a factor to look for, but is not a sure identification characteristic since some Taverner's may be quite dark, and some dusky's may be relatively light in color. This overlap makes identification by color alone unreliable.
3. Taverner's have a tendency to fly in large flocks and like to land in large, open fields. Birds are very skittish at times and movement from field to field is not uncommon. Flocks may circle an area numerous times before landing.
4. Wing shape is helpful for many hunters. The dusky wing tends to be broader in proportion to its length, while the Taverner's wing often appears narrower and longer in relation to body size.
5. Culmen length falls between 32 to 40 millimeters.



Lesser Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis parvipes*)

The lesser Canada goose closely resembles the Taverner's and is about the same size. The lesser is lighter in body color than the Taverner's, and much lighter than the dusky. The range of culmen length is similar to the Taverner's (32 to 40 millimeters), but some may run slightly larger and extend into the dusky range. The lighter breast color separates the lesser from the dusky.

This subspecies is common during winter months in eastern Oregon and Washington where it is often mixed with flocks of western Canada geese. In northwest Oregon and southwest Washington it is less abundant, but will be found mixed with other geese. In this region, lessers seem to occur more in the Willamette Valley.

The lesser nests from interior and northern Alaska eastward into the Yukon Territory in a widely dispersed pattern. Subsistence harvest is not significant.



Major Identification Points – lesser Canada goose

1. Same size as Taverner's or slightly larger.
2. Light breast coloration similar to that of the western. Often has a more 'buffy' cast compared to the gray of the Taverner's.
3. Differentiated from the dusky by its lighter coloration.
4. Culmen length in same range as the Taverner's but may extend into the lower range of the dusky.
5. Behavior similar to the Taverner's.
6. Tarsus bands and blue neck collars on some birds.



Western Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis moffitti*)

Also known as the great basin, Moffitt's Canada goose or "honker", this is the largest and lightest colored of our Canada geese. It is also the only goose that nests in Oregon and Washington and can be found throughout both states. Weight range between 8 to 11 pounds, sometimes larger. Culmen length is greater than 50 millimeters. Breast color ranges from a light gray in younger birds to almost white in adult birds.

The western Canada goose population has increased throughout Oregon and Washington. This subspecies nests as far north as southern Canada and in all our neighboring states. Our region's wintering population is made up of both resident and migrant birds.



Major Identification Points – western Canada goose

1. Largest of our geese, many over 10 pounds in weight.
2. Breast color very light, almost white coloration in some cases.
3. Relatively slow wing beat.
4. Culmen length exceeds 50 millimeters.

5. Resident geese along the lower Columbia River and in the Willamette Valley have been marked with light gray neck collars.
6. Generally fly in smaller flocks, usually numbering less than 40.



Cackling Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*)

This smallest Canada goose wintering in the Pacific Northwest is only about half again larger than a mallard. It has a short stubby culmen, short neck and a high-crowned ‘puffy’ head. The culmen measures under 32 millimeters. This bird’s breast is generally dark in color, similar to the dusky, and may have a purplish cast. It has a high-pitched yelping call or ‘cackle’ from which it gets its name. The call is distinctive from other Canada geese found in our area. It is one of our least wary geese.

The cackler nests in a narrow fringe along the west coast of Alaska, mainly between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Numbers of this subspecies dropped precipitously from about 400,000 in the late 1960s, to fewer than 25,000 in the mid-1980s. The decline is believed to be due to a combination of subsistence harvest in Alaska and sport harvest on the wintering grounds, mainly in California.

Because of the decline, the sport season was closed for this subspecies from 1984 through 1993. Subsistence harvest in Alaska has also been sharply reduced through cooperative ventures with native villages on the Y-K Delta. Results were very positive and the fall flight of cacklers is now estimated at about 150,000. However, population growth has leveled off in recent years, short of the recovery goals. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the most current bag limits for your state and area.

Along with increased numbers, there appears to be a pronounced distribution shift of wintering birds away from California into Oregon and Washington. Our historical wintering population numbered only a few hundred birds. In recent years this has steadily increased, and in the last few years the majority of the population has been wintering in our region. This may be a result of changing habitat conditions in the Willamette Valley and along the lower Columbia River, drought conditions in California in the late 1980s, restricted hunting seasons, or a combination of other factors.



Major Identification Points – cackling Canada goose

1. Smallest of our geese, about 1 ½ times the size of a mallard.
2. Short neck, stubby culmen and “puffy” head.
3. Because of its small size, cacklers have a faster wing beat in comparison to larger geese. Generally flies in large flocks (>50).
4. Generally dark in color, but young birds are lighter in color.
5. High-pitched yelping or “cackling” call is distinctive.

6. Culmen length under 32 millimeters.
7. Yellow neck collars on some birds.



Vancouver Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis fulva*)

The Vancouver Canada goose is a large, dark-colored bird. In size it is similar to the western and in color it is dark like the dusky. Culmen length, like the western, exceeds 50 millimeters.

The Vancouver nests along the forested coastline of southeast Alaska and British Columbia. Its population appears to be stable. This goose winters mainly in British Columbia and Washington and many birds only migrate short distances. Few winter in Oregon, but the bird may occasionally be encountered.

The Vancouver is difficult to distinguish from the dusky, having the same dark breast coloration. Because of our hunting season structure, aimed at minimizing harvest of dark-colored dusky Canada geese, few Vancouvers are taken. When taken, however, it can be distinguished by a culmen larger than that of the dusky.



Major Identification Points – Vancouver Canada goose

1. Large size, dark breast color.
2. Culmen length exceeds 50 millimeters.
3. No neck collars or other marks have been used.



Aleutian Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*)

The Aleutian Canada goose nests on a few islands in the Aleutian Chain of Alaska and winters primarily in California. Small populations also winter and migrate along the Oregon and Washington coasts, but this subspecies is rarely encountered in the special goose hunt areas.

Due largely to the introduction of foxes onto its nesting islands, the Aleutian Canada goose population declined to about 800 birds by the early 1970s. The geese were federally listed as endangered in 1967.

Due to a very successful recovery effort, Aleutian Canada geese now number over 60,000. Hunting opportunities are beginning to open for Aleutians so it is important to be familiar with your specific state and area regulations.

This is a small goose, only slightly larger than the cackler, and has a grayish brown breast. Its most distinguishing feature is a broad, white neck ring, which completely encircles the lower neck. All Canada geese may have a neck ring. This may vary from a few white feathers, to a faint partial ring, to a complete ring. But seldom is the ring as consistent or distinctive as it is on the Aleutian. This goose is most likely to be mixed in with cacklers.

Broad colored leg bands or “tarsal bands” have been placed on this bird. An occasional flock of Aleutian Canada geese has been seen within hunt areas of northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, but they are seldom seen far from coastal areas.



Major Identification Points – Aleutian Canada goose

1. Small size, usually grayish breast color.
2. Conspicuous broad white neck ring, completely encircles the lower neck.
3. Some birds have colored leg bands

CANADA GOOSE IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- ✓ Be cautious about geese that drop right in, or geese that come in to small fields, or areas with trees or brushy areas nearby. Birds that come in low, with much calling, are probably duskys.
- ✓ Let birds get close. Be especially careful when it is raining, snowing, foggy, or the light is poor. All geese will look dark in poor light. Use binoculars as geese are approaching to help determine the subspecies before shooting.
- ✓ Look for geese with a distinct break between the black neck and breast feathers. Geese without this break are probably duskys. Some hunters find voice differences helpful, but others can hear no difference. This can only be learned by experience.
- ✓ Be aware of collared geese. Duskys are marked with red or green collars, cacklers with yellow collars, lesser with blue collars, and westerns with white/gray collars.
- ✓ Remember that all geese may have a white neck ring, ranging from a few white feathers to a complete ring. Therefore, you must consider all identification factors including behavior, voice, color, and size.

SPECIAL GOOSE SEASON

The goose-hunting season for northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, under guidance of federal frameworks has several objectives:

1. Continue to allow as much hunting as possible under a season structure geared toward protection of Canada goose subspecies of concern.
2. Create an understanding among hunters of the problems we are having with geese, and help them to learn to differentiate among the several subspecies.
3. Use hunting as a tool to assist landowners in reducing agricultural depredation on crops and pastures.

Prior to restrictive hunting seasons, dusky made up a significant percentage of the goose harvest in the region. By contrast, in recent years, dusky have been only a small percentage of the total geese harvested. This has only happened because most hunters have made a conscientious effort and have cooperated with the provisions and intent of the season. With ongoing hunter and landowner cooperation, we hope to continue similar hunts until such time that more liberal hunting opportunities can be allowed. But total hunter compliance must be achieved to protect hunting. This study course is one tool in assisting you to help achieve that goal.

Because of the need to closely monitor this season, goose hunters have been required to bring all harvested birds to check stations. Goose measurements are taken to assist managers in assessing subspecies harvest. While not a precise science, there must be legal definitions to classify some subspecies based on culmen length and/or breast color. Please work cooperatively with check station personnel.

Refer to the hunting regulations published annually by Oregon and Washington for specific rule changes. Please read the regulations carefully and bear in mind the following points:

1. Although one dusky Canada goose can be legally taken in the season, each counts toward the quota that will close the season, and each hunter's objective should be to **take no dusky**. We cannot stress the importance of this enough! Once a dusky is taken the hunter cannot continue participation in the special hunt for the remainder of the season.
2. When a goose is taken, the date and time must be immediately marked on your harvest report. This tagging requirement assists law enforcement officials in tracking daily harvest.
3. Hunters bagging geese must report to a check station before returning home. Close monitoring of harvest is essential for a successful program. **Remember, never intentionally shoot a dusky.** This type of activity is occurring and must stop. The quota system is designed to allow for mistaken birds only!
4. There is no way to identify with certainty all geese in the air. **When there is an identity question, the only safe and responsible action is to let them pass.** You will have other chances and losing your hunting permit isn't worth the risk.
5. Identifying the subtle difference among the various subspecies takes a lot of experience and practice. There is no substitute for looking at a lot of geese over a long period of time. With practice you will become more confident in your abilities.

6. Check out opportunities for special September Canada goose seasons which target western Canada geese and require no special permits.
7. Police your own ranks. **Your help is needed to stop wildlife violations and ensure hunting opportunities in future years.** Always cooperate with law enforcement personnel. Also, assist new hunters in learning goose identification in the field.
8. The success of this season depends on hunter honesty and a commitment on the part of everyone involved to make it work. Continuation of this season depends on good hunter ethics and a conservation spirit.

THE WRITTEN EXAM

The following information will assist you in preparing for your written examination. **Please be sure to review the videotape – Pacific Northwest Goose Management – along with these printed materials.** Ordering information is provided on the inside front cover of this booklet.



Key Vocabulary Words You Should Know

culmen (p.7)
Pacific Flyway (p.6)
subsistence (P.5)
subspecies (p.2)

depredation (p.2)
predation (p.3)
production, productivity (p.3)
threatened (p.13)

Questions You Should Be Able To Answer

1. How many subspecies of Canada geese winter in our area? List all of them. (p.7-14)
2. What characteristics are used at a check station to identify different subspecies? (p.15)
3. Has the overall winter Canada goose population in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington increased or decreased over the past 10 years? Which subspecies have increased? Which subspecies have decreased? (p.3-6)
4. What factors in Alaska have affected wintering Canada goose populations in Oregon and Washington? (p.3-6)
5. What actions have fish and wildlife agencies taken to improve productivity of dusky Canada geese on the breeding grounds? (p.4)
6. Which subspecies of Canada goose is the one fish and wildlife agencies would like to see harvested? (p.8)
7. Which color neck collars have been placed on which subspecies of Canada goose? (p.7-14, inside back cover)
8. Why is the dusky Canada goose more vulnerable to harvest than certain other subspecies of Canada goose? (p.7)
9. Can you identify key characteristics, details and important behavioral traits of all subspecies of Canada geese which winter in our region? Write down **at least** two key characteristics or traits for each subspecies. (p.7-14)

10. Identify 3 key objectives for the special permit goose-hunting season in Oregon and Washington. What type of hunter ethics must be practiced to protect future hunting? (p.15-16)
11. List two key tips for distinguishing between dusky Canada geese and other subspecies. (p. 7-14, inside back cover)

Geese You Should Be Able To Identify (from photographs, black-and-white or color drawings, **or** characteristics)

Aleutian Canada Goose

Cackling Canada Goose

Dusky Canada Goose

Lesser Canada Goose

Taverner's Canada Goose

Vancouver Canada Goose

Western Canada Goose

Snow Goose

White-fronted Goose

MORE ABOUT THIS STUDY COURSE



All material included in this course – whether in this booklet or on the videotape – is fair game for the exam. The most important thing you can do is **be prepared!** Questions are based on all course materials, and the testing procedure is designed to eliminate individuals who are not prepared to comply with tight restrictions and requirements for Canada goose hunting in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. Don't rely on luck....study the material, review it frequently and discuss it with friends and family members. **Also, don't wait until the last minute to take an exam.** Exam locations and attendance will be limited but you will have numerous opportunities before the goose season opens. Exams must be scored before a permit is issued and this will take additional time. **Exams will not be scored or permits issued at the session you attend – most permits will be mailed.** So, plan ahead!

Please be sure to follow the recommendations contained in the *Pacific Northwest Goose Management* videotape when hunting. If you are ever in doubt about which subspecies of Canada goose is coming into your blind, **don't shoot!** The following pages contain drawings and photos of the various geese. Study them closely. Also spend time thoroughly reviewing the Oregon and Washington game bird regulations for important information concerning goose seasons in the region. Remember, regulations can and do change annually and states must adhere to federal frameworks for all migratory game bird seasons established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We all contribute to the continuation of hunting for ourselves and future generations. Thanks for your cooperation and have a safe and enjoyable hunting season this year. We wish you success!



Taverner's Canada geese on a cloudy day – note short neck, light breast



Dusky Canada geese on a clear day – note long neck, dark breast



The seven subspecies of Canada Geese



Binoculars are an essential tool for accurate identification

More questions about this home study course or special permit goose seasons? Or do you need any special assistance?



In Oregon, call (503) 947-6300 or visit www.dfw.state.or.us

In Washington, call (360) 902-2515 or visit www.dfw.wa.gov

This material will be furnished in an alternative format for people with disabilities, if needed. In Oregon, please call (503) 947-6300 (voice) or (503) 872-5259 (Portland TTY). In Washington, call (360) 902-2200.

The Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife will provide equal opportunities to all potential and existing employees without regard to race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability or Vietnam Era Veteran's status. The departments receive Federal Aid for fish and wildlife restoration.

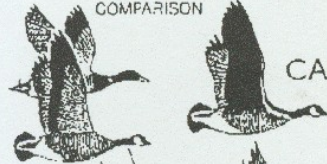
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IDENTIFICATION OF CANADA GOOSE SUBSPECIES

	Western	Vancouver	Dusky	Lesser	Taverner's	Aleutian	Cackler
Size	Largest	Large, similar to western	Large	Medium to large	20-30% smaller than dusky	Slightly larger than the cackler	Smallest, similar or slightly larger than a mallard
Weight	8-12 lb.	8-11 lb.	6.5-10 lb.	5-6 lb.	4.5-6 lb.	3-4 lb.	3-3.5 lb.
Neck/Breast	Very light breast, Very distinct break between neck and breast.	Dark breast	Dark breast, but color varies. Neck seems to merge with breast.	Lighter breast than dusky	Lighter breast, but color varies. Distinctive break between neck and breast.	Grayish, brown breast. Broad white neck ring.	Short, stubby bill and "puffy" head. Neck seems to merge with breast.
Collars	White collars	No collars	Red collars Green collars	Leg bands, Blue collars	No collars	Leg bands, a few white collars	Yellow collars
Voice/Call	Similar to others except cackler	Similar to others except cackler	Similar to others except cackler	Similar to others except cackler	Similar to others except cackler	Similar to others except cackler	High-pitched yelping
Flock Size	Small flocks, variable	Small	Small flocks, usually less than 40, variable	Small	Large flocks, often 200 or more, variable	Small	Large flocks, variable
Population Status	Increased over past levels	Low numbers	15,000 Depressed	Moderate numbers	Stable	Increasing	Increased over past levels. 150,000
Behavior	Not always wary. Likely to fly low and can decoy small flocks	Similar to western	Not very wary. Likely to fly low, comes right in. Decoys to small brushy fields.	Similar to Taverner's	Wary, circles many times before coming in and likes open fields.	Not very wary	One of our least wary geese
Wing Shape & Beat	Relatively slow wing beat	Similar to western	Wing appears broader in proportion to length than Taverner's	Similar to Taverner's	Wing appearance narrow and long in relation to body	Similar to cackler	Relatively rapid wing beat

Cut on line and carry with you when hunting →

MALLARD SIZE
COMPARISON



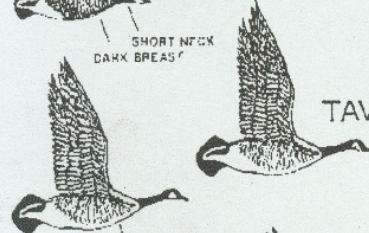
ACKLING



MAY SHOW
WHITE

SOME HAVE YELLOW
NECK COLLARS

SHORT NECK
DARK BREAST

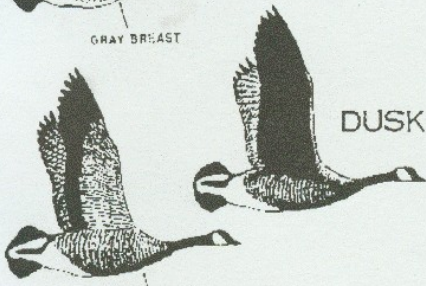


TAVERNER'S

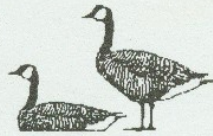


NO NECK COLLARS

GRAY BREAST

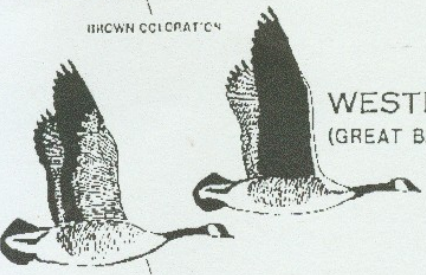


DUSKY

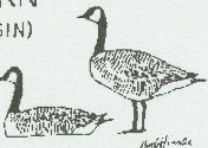


SOME HAVE RED
NECK COLLARS

BROWN COLORATION



WESTERN
(GREAT BASIN)



SOME HAVE WHITE
NECK COLLARS

LIGHT
BREAST COLOR