

Chapter 7 - Canada Goose Seasons

Highlights

This chapter describes five Canada Goose 'seasons' that delimit the temporal distribution of marked geese, underpinning Goal 2 (setting temporal management objectives).

Although there is considerable overlap among Canada Goose seasons, we have delimited them as follows: spring migration = February/March, nesting = April/May, moulting = June to middle of August, fall migration = middle of August to end of November, overwintering = December/January.

Canada Goose Seasons



Canada Geese overwintering in the Craig Creek estuary, January 8, 2005

The Canada Goose life cycle consists of a series of 'seasons', including spring migration, nesting, moulting, fall migration, and overwintering. Finer life cycle descriptions include pre-nesting and brood-rearing periods. Table 7-1 divides the year into life cycle seasons; the first row shows hard boundaries between each period. In reality, these seasons overlap, as some birds begin nesting earlier

than others, some linger at the moulting areas while others move on, and so forth. These 'true' seasons are also shown in the table.

Seasons were delimited mainly by examining the movements of marked birds. The nesting season was derived from observations made over 7 years of egg adding on the estuaries. Brood-rearing was determined based on a 25-28 day incubation period.

Table 7-1. Canada Goose seasons. The first row divides the year into an annual cycle encompassing overwintering, spring migration, nesting, moulting, and fall migration periods. In the rows below, entire, overlapping seasons have been delimited wherever possible.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Over-wintering	Spring Migration		Nesting		Moulting			Fall Migration			Over-wintering
	Spring Migration: ends Mar 22										
	Pre-nesting: begins Mar 8										
			Nesting: Mar 30 - May 30		Laying (B.C.): March 13 to July 6 (<i>Birds of British Columbia</i> , Campbell et al. 1990). Peak laying April 1-14 (Dawe & Davies 1975).						
			Brood-rearing (hatch): April 24 - Jun 27			Brood-rearing from hatch to fledging (B.C.) April 15 to August 24 (<i>Birds of British Columbia</i> , Campbell et al. 1990). Peak hatching May 6-19 (Dawe & Davies 1975).					
				Moulting: May 17 - Aug 22, most May 31- Aug 16							
Over-wintering: ends Feb 22									Overwintering: begins Oct 26, most after Dec 6		