



Greater Snow Goose

(*Chen caerulescens atlantica*)

Yellow Neck Collar Identification Of
Over-wintering Greater Snow Geese
2008-09 Season
Coastal Virginia And North Carolina

Reese F. Lukei, Jr. Research Associate at
The Center for Conservation Biology at
The College of William and Mary
And
Volunteer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Introduction



- Greater Snow Goose Populations
 - 1965 numbers estimated to be 25,000
 - 2008 numbers estimated to be 1,000,000

Frequent Fliers

➤ Spring

- Breeding - High Arctic of Canada, primarily Bylot, Ellesmere and Baffin islands

➤ Winter

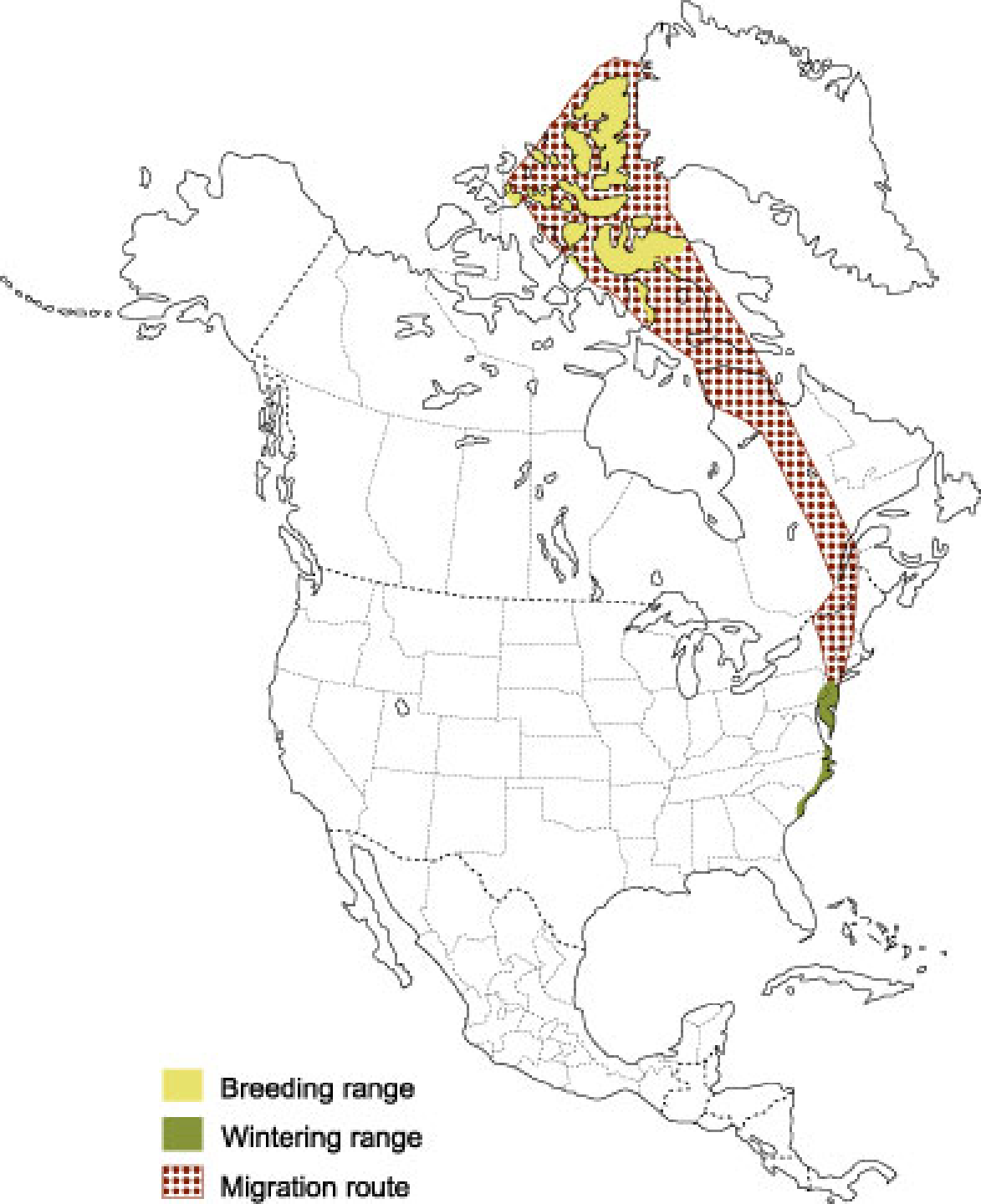
- Feeding - Mid-Atlantic coastal region from New Jersey to North Carolina

➤ Fall and Late Spring

- Staging - along the St. Lawrence River north of Quebec City in the area of Cape Tourmente and Ile-aux-Oies (Island of Geese).

Migration routes

- Distance traveled can be in excess of 4,000km (2,485m)
- Usually travel 55km/h (34mph)
- Can reach speeds of 95km/h (59mph)
- Can travel 1,000km nonstop



Study Commenced in 1980

- Dr. Gilles Gauthier Department of Biology and Center for Northern Studies at the University of Laval in Quebec
- Observed geese at staging and breeding locations using band data:
 - Metal leg bands & yellow, plastic neck collars used to document breeding, migration and age data
 - Neck collars only on females older than 2 years when banded
 - Unique alpha numeric code per individual

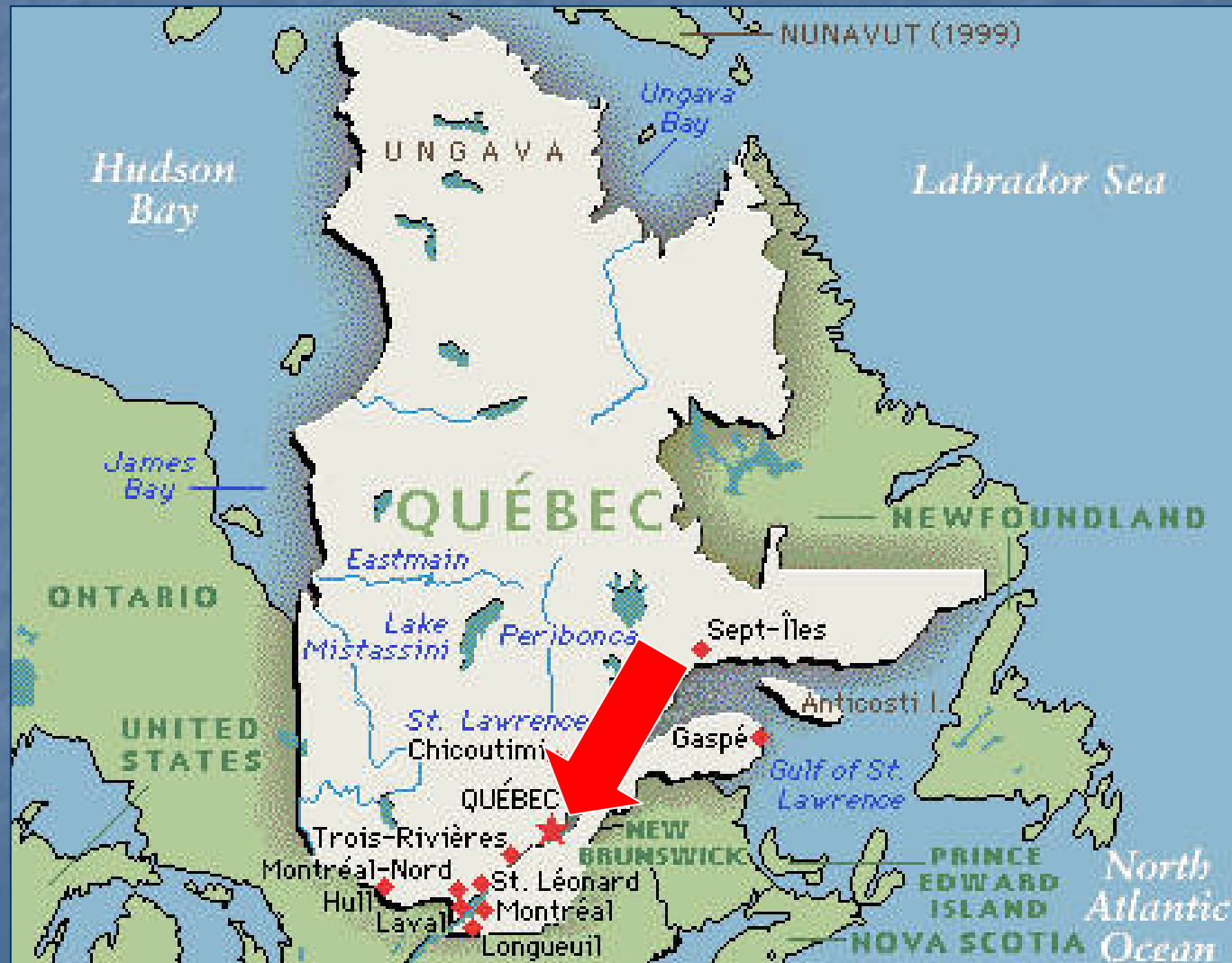
Banding Locations

- Breeding Grounds
 - Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada - Sirmilik National Park Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada



Banding Locations

- Staging Grounds
 - Ile-aux-Oies, Quebec, Canada
 - Cape Tourmente, Quebec, Canada



Banding Data

Bylot	2006	2007	2008
USGC Bands	4603	4260	3395
Neck Collars	675	609	447
GPS	25	20	15

Ellesmere	2007	2008
USGC Bands	1347	567
Neck Collars	329	66
GPS	20	0



Observations in Virginia and North Carolina



- Citizen Scientists assist the research team by observing geese and reporting neck collar sighting data at: http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/gon-gsg/en_resultats1.php
- Data in this report is from sightings during the winter of 2008-09 from several locations in Virginia and North Carolina
- Geese sighted as far south as Pea Island
- Sightings were made by Mitchell Byrd, Joe Foreman and Reese Lukei, Jr.

Virginia Sighting Locations

- Virginia Eastern Shore
 - Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
 - Virginia Route 666 near Parksley - Accomack County
 - Virginia Route 600 near Eastville - Northampton County
- Virginia Beach, Virginia
 - Fitztown Road - farm field
 - Mill Landing Road - farm field
 - Princess Anne Rd & Sandbridge Road - Farm field
 - Heritage Park retention pond
 - Sherwood Lakes - lake and lake banks
 - Bonney's Store - field behind store





REZONING

A rezoning is proposed from A-2 to A-100 pertaining to the property. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in City Council Chambers on [blank] at 12 noon. Final action by City Council will allow at a later date. For additional information call the Planning Department at 315-4621.

Home Remodeling & Additions
Remodeling & Additions
315-675-0581





North Carolina Sighting Locations

- Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, Knotts Island, North Carolina
 - Causeway-Charles Kuralt Observation Platform
 - Live Oak Point





Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted - Chincoteague

Observation Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
12/01/08	JF	24AE	2007	IAO
12/01/08	JF	50AM	2008	IAO
12/15/08	MB	PR59	2008	Bylot
12/15/08	MB	MP57	2006	Bylot
12/15/08	MB	MU58	2006	Bylot
12/15/08	MB	RA26	2006	IAO
12/15/08	MB	PK86	2007	Bylot

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman, RL - Reese Lukei, Jr, IAO – Ile-aux-Oies

Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Eastville, Virginia

Observation Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
02/02/09	RL	A2C5	2007	Ellesmere
02/02/09	RL	PK28	2007	Bylot
02/02/09	RL	A0A8	2007	Ellesmere
02/02/09	RL	A0A9	2007	Ellesmere
02/02/09	RL	MK28	2005	Bylot
02/02/09	RL	PM57	2008	Bylot

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman, RL - Reese Lukei, Jr, IAO – Ile-aux-Oies

Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Parksley, Virginia

Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
02/02/09	RL	PF57	2007	Bylot
02/02/09	RL	MT14	2006	Bylot

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman and RL - Reese Lukei, Jr.

Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Virginia Beach, Virginia

Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
Fitztown Road				
02/08/09	JF	85AF	2007	IAO
02/08/09	JF	EA35	1996	Bylot
Mill Landing Road				
2/21/09	RL	MK16	2005	Bylot
2/21/09	RL	A1C5	2007	Ellesmere
2/21/09	RL	20AC	2007	IAO

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman, RL - Reese Lukei, Jr, IAO – Ile-aux-Oies

Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Virginia Beach, Virginia

Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
Princess Anne Road, Sandbridge Road, Heritage Park, Sherwood Lakes				
02/08/09	RL	25AC	2007	IAO
02/10/09	RL	PA76	2006	Bylot
02/10/09	RL	RC03	2006	IAO
02/20/09	RL	PE36	2007	Bylot

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman, RL - Reese Lukei, Jr, IAO – Ile-aux-Oies





Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Mackey Island, Kuralt Overlook

Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
12/07/08	RL	JF15	2000	Bylot
12/07/08	RL	A8H9	2008	Ellesmore

**MB - Mitchell Byrd, JF - Joe Foreman, RL - Reese Lukei, Jr, IAO – Ile-aux-Oies

Neck Collars by Observer and Date Sighted – Live Oak Point, NC

Date	Observer	Number	Year Banded	Location Banded
02/08/09	RL	86AA	2007	IAO
02/08/09	RL	A8H8	2008	Ellesmere
02/08/09	RL	79AX	2008	IAO
02/08/09	RL	76AU	2008	IAO
02/08/09	RL	JF08	2000	Bylot
02/08/09	RL	PY47	2006	IAO
02/08/09	RL	RE21	2008	Bylot
02/08/09	RL	JE19	2000	Bylot



Questions?



Acknowledgements

- University of Laval Department of Biology and Center for Northern Studies
- Dr. Mitchell Byrd, neck collar identifications
- Joe Foreman, neck collar identifications
- Melinda Lukei, neck collar identification assistance
- Susan Wenzel, power point preparation

Reference

- Greater Snow Goose Demographic Studies
http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/gon-gsg/en_description.htm
- National Park <http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/bylot/studysite.htm>
- http://www.hww.ca/~Content/44/Images/gr_snow_goose_e.jpg
- <http://wwp.greenwichmeantime.com/>
- Ecological Studies and Environmental Monitoring at Bylot Island - Sirmilik

Contact Information

Reese F. Lukei, Jr.

1046 Azalea Court

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

757-340-5948