

NYC Species Info Sheet
Researcher Name:

Species Common Name: Canada goose

Species Scientific Name: *Branta canadensis*



How did this species arrive in New York City (if native, write "native")?
native

What is the conservation status of this species in all of its range (common, rare, threatened, or endangered)?
common

What is the status of this species in New York City? Is it common or very rare? Is it stable or in trouble?
common

What habitats does this species select in its historical (non-urban) habitat? Be sure to include important habitat features (caves, water, tree cavities, etc.) this species needs.
Fields, usually near bodies of water

What is this species diet and foraging behavior in its historical (non-urban) habitat?
Grazes on grasses, water plants. Roosts in flocks on the water

*Does this species' **habitat**, **diet**, or **behavior** change in an urban environment? How?*
Canada geese have taken advantage of the large number of lawns and fields (parks, baseball fields, cemeteries) that people have created in the urban and suburban environment. They are also frequently fed by people. In many places, Canada geese have stopped migrating south during the winter because they can survive on food given to them by people.

Where is this species found in New York City? What boroughs? Specific places?
Canada geese are found across the city, anywhere near fresh water. They forage on almost any field.

What management decisions have been made or are being debated regarding this species?

Canada geese are regarded as nuisances or pests by many people. Their feces are an annoyance to property owners and park-goers. Due to their very high abundance their defecation actually pollutes the water in NYS reservoirs. They are currently being controlled by the government via egg addling (shaking the eggs to kill the embryo without stimulating the adults to re-nest). At the same time, many people like having them in the parks and enjoy watching and feeding them.

As a wildlife ecologist, what would you like to know about this species?

Does addling help control the population? Do Canada geese have any predators?

Any other interesting facts about this species in NYC: