

**NORTH AMERICAN CANADA GOOSE POPULATIONS -
AN INCREASING HAZARD TO AVIATION?**

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Summary

The presentation uses colour slides to illustrate trends in North American Canada goose populations for the period 1970-95. Emphasis is on the increases in the non-migratory residential Canada goose populations that cause hazards to aircraft as well as nuisance, agricultural and health problems. These large geese are the "giant" (*Branta canadensis maxima*) and the "western" (*Bc moffitti*) subspecies. Mid-winter surveys have indicated that the North American populations of these large geese almost tripled during the 1985-95 period. Total Canada goose populations increased by 66% during this period. Information is given about the numbers of these geese in the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific flyways for both resident geese and the total flyway populations.

Jet aircraft numbers also have increased during the 1985-95 period, 52% for the US, 38% for Canada and 68% world-wide. Departures by US airlines increased, but data are not complete. I conclude that Canada geese are a serious hazard to aircraft and that concerned parties should take appropriate measures to obviate this threat.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a modification in the system of issuing depredations permits that would authorise states and/or the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, US Department of Agriculture to control safety and other problems caused by residential Canada goose populations.

Key Words: Bird Population, Resident, Migration, Permits