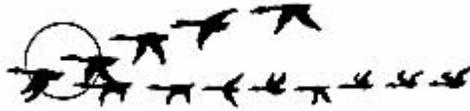


## **Atlantic Population Canada Geese – Ungava Peninsula**

**2017 Preliminary Report:**

**PRESEASON BANDING**

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**Atlantic Flyway Technical Section  
Canada Goose Committee**

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**23 November 2017**

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In 1997 a preseason banding program was initiated for Atlantic Population Canada Geese breeding on the Ungava Peninsula in Nunavik, in northern Québec. Each year from late July to mid August banding crews capture and band brood flocks of Canada Geese along the northern Hudson Bay coast and along the west coast of Ungava Bay. Helicopters are used to round up and help drive flightless geese toward funnel-shaped traps; when conditions are favourable each 5-person crew conducts, on average, 5-7 catches per day.

### **2017 Summary:**

The timing of banding was just right in 2017 for both crews on the Ungava and Hudson Bay sides considering the size of the goslings captured. Despite less than perfect weather, banding operations in 2017 went fairly well along Ungava Bay with 821 adults and 1547 goslings banded (total 2368 geese) but not quite as well along Hudson Bay, with only 682 adults and 1054 goslings banded (total 1736 geese). Combining both regions, a total of 4104 geese were banded, and the preliminary Immature:Adult ratio (2601 juveniles/1503 adults) in our catches was 1.73, considerably higher than the combined long-term average of 1.43 (1997-2016). Such a high ratio has not been seen since 2008. In conclusion, productivity of AP Canada Geese from the Ungava Peninsula in 2017 was very good.

### **Ungava Bay – Aupaluk**

From 5 to 10 August 2017, a crew comprised of Jim Bennett (MD), Pierre Brousseau (CWS), Benoît Audet (CWS), and Sandy Suppa (Makivik), along with Nunavik Rotors (A-Star) helicopter pilot Natalie D'Astous banded 2368 geese, including 821 adults and 1547 goslings. This results in a preliminary Immature:Adult ratio of 1.88 which is higher than the long term average for Ungava Bay of 1.42.

An additional 34 previously banded adults were recaptured. A total of 29 catches were made, with a mean of 82 geese (excluding recaptures) per catch (range: 36-183 geese); all captured flocks contained goslings. The crew also captured and banded 1 small Canada Goose (i.e. Richardson's). All catches were made between Leaf River in the south and Quaqtuaq to the north. This year, only 6 catches of the 29 were made around or south of Aupaluk while 15 catches were north of Kangirsuk. All but a single day were cut short due to inclement weather. Overall, in 2017 AP Canada Goose productivity along Ungava Bay was very good.

### **Hudson Bay – Puvirnituk**

From 5 to 14 August 2017, the crew banded 1736 geese, including 682 adults and 1054 goslings. This results in a preliminary Immature:Adult ratio of 1.55, slightly higher than the long-term Hudson Bay average of 1.45. This year's crew consisted of CWS personnel Shirley Orichesky and Francis St-Pierre along with Robert Burrows (MD), John O'Connor (NY), Andrew Brunet, pilot (EC130 B4 helicopter) and Mathew Barnard (flight engineer) both with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF).

An additional 16 previously banded adults were recaptured. A total of 40 catches were made by the crew, with a mean of 43 geese (excluding recaptures) per catch (range: 20-124 geese); this mean is similar to the long-term average of 44 birds. All captured flocks contained at least 1 gosling. In addition to the above mentioned Canada Geese, 33 small Canada Geese (i.e. Richardson's; 12 adults with 21 goslings) and 51 Lesser Snow Geese (24 adults with 27 goslings) were captured and banded in the Sorehead area. In addition to the regular pre-season leg-banding project, 25 cellular GPS's attached to collars were fitted to adult males captured across the Hudson Bay crew's banding area. Five banding days were partially shortened due to fog or rain. All catches were made in an area extending approximately 185 km along the Hudson Bay coast from the Sorehead River in the north to just south of the Mariet River in the south and extending 40 km inland. Overall, in 2017 AP Canada Goose productivity along eastern Hudson Bay appeared very good.