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Canada goose
(*Branta canadensis*)

Classification	
Order	Anseriformes
Family	*Anatidae*
Genus	*Branta*
Species	*B. canadensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Originated in North America. Introduced in Europe in the 1700s for ornamental purposes. The species started to colonise France in the 1960s and 1970s.

Description

■ Large goose with a black head and neck that contrast sharply with the white cheeks and breast
■ Brown body with a white underside
■ The plumage is identical for the two sexes
■ Adults stand 1 metre tall with a wing span of between 160 and 175 cm
■ The average weight is approximately 5.2 kilograms
■ The average life span is approximately 24 years

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Ecology and reproduction

■ The birds adapt to highly diverse habitats:
- natural or artificial wetlands near agricultural areas
- ponds, quarries, lakes, rivers, golf courses, parks, reed ponds, etc.
■ In France, the species is sedentary with the birds grouped together in wintering zones and dispersed in the summer
■ The species is herbivorous and feeds on reeds, grain, stalks, leaves, roots and tubers
■ In Europe, the birds can nest in colonies.
■ Adults and young can group in maternity colonies:
- 3 or 4 chicks constitute an average brood
- incubation lasts for 28 to 32 days
- juveniles begin to fly at 10 weeks
- first reproduction at age of 3 to 4 years
■ The species is gregarious and highly tolerant of human contact

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Documentation

■ Sarat E. (coord.) 2012. Vertébrés exotiques envahissants du bassin de la Loire (hors poissons) : connaissances et expériences de gestion. Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, Plan Loire Grandeur Nature, 128 pp.
■ Cramp S., Simmons K.E. 1977. *Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The birds of the Western Palearctic* (1) *Ostrich to Duck. Oxford, UK ; Oxford University Press. 913* pp.
■ Fouque C., Schricke V., David Y., Serre D. 2011. La Bernache du Canada : une espèce exotique devenue envahissante. Diagnostic, plan de lutte et régulation. Faune Sauvage, 290 : 18-31.

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Birds

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