

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Bird · Resident · here all year



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A large, long-necked goose with a black head and neck broken by a broad white chinstrap, a brown body and pale underparts. Canada geese were brought to Britain as ornamental wildfowl in the seventeenth century and have since established a large feral population. Around Dumfries they are resident on lochs, ponds, playing fields and the quieter reaches of the Nith all year.

BEHAVIOUR

Canada geese graze grass in flocks and are bold around people, which makes them both familiar and, in parks and on playing fields, unpopular. The call is a loud, resonant two-note honk. Pairs are strongly territorial and defensive when they have goslings. In midsummer adults moult all their flight feathers at once and are flightless for several weeks, which is when they stay closest to open water.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Ducks, geese and swans (Anatidae)
SIZE	90–110 cm
UK STATUS	Introduced · not assessed

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