

**2008 Recruitment Study of Atlantic Population Canada Geese – Ungava Peninsula  
– Preliminary Report –**



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**SUMMARY:**

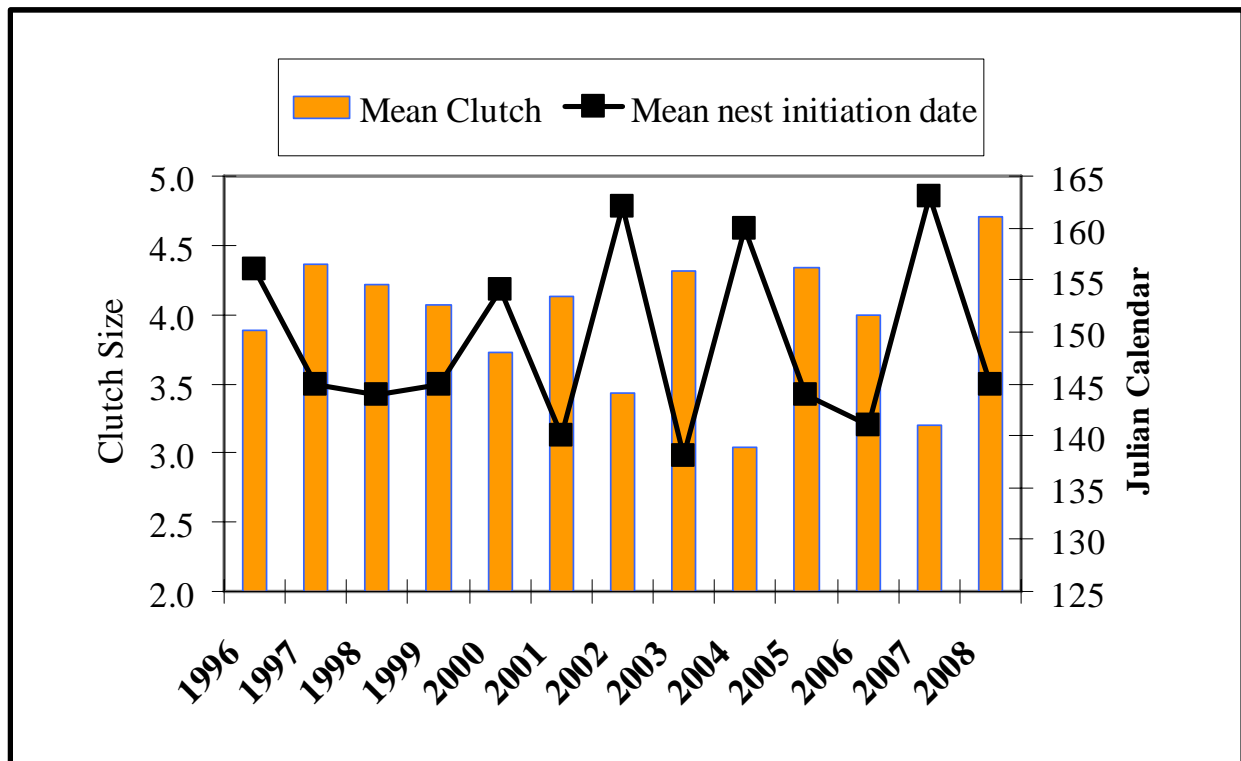
In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated for Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula in northern Québec. Each year during incubation (early-mid June), a number of sites along the coastal lowlands of Ungava Bay are visited. In 2008 four sites were surveyed on 9-10 June by Mark Dionne (CWS), Rob Hossler (DE), Peter May (Nunavik Research Centre), and Sandy Suppa (Nunavik Research Centre). On the Ungava Peninsula in 2008, snow melt was early (Aliva Tulugak, Puvirnituk, and Peter May, Kuujuaq, pers. comm.) and at the time of the nest survey most nests were in mid to late incubation. The mean nest initiation date (average of all 4 sites) in 2008 was 24 May, which is 19 days earlier than last year and 4 days earlier than the long-term average (1997-2008). The total number of nests found and the mean clutch size for all 4 sites are 75 and 4.71, respectively. This is the largest annual average clutch size since the study began. At the time of the survey, 65 of the 75 nests (i.e., 87%) found were still active. Interestingly nest density was highest at the northern-most site, located near Aupaluk. Of the four, this site was the only one whose 2008 nest density was greater than its long-term average. Again in 2008 very few pairs were found nesting on Big Island, probably due to the presence of black bears. In conclusion, productivity of AP Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula in 2008 should be good.

**Table 1.** Productivity data for AP Canada Geese at nesting sites in the Ungava Bay region, 1997-2008.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. Sites Surveyed	2	3	4	4	5	6	5	3	5	6	5	4
No. Nests	28	61	113	80	181	185	225	59	116	126	64	75
Nest Density (n/km <sup>2</sup> )	14.2	21.2	67.1	38.4	40.7	19.4	16.7	24.5	43.3	34.1	32.4	25.7
Mean Nest Initiation Date	25 May	24 May	25 May	2 June	20 May	11 June	18 May	8 June	24 May	21 May	12 June	24 May
Mean Clutch Size	4.36	4.22	4.07	3.73	4.13	3.43	4.31	3.04	4.34	3.99	3.20	4.71
% Nest Success	65	82	64	42	51	29	59	21	52	47	22	—

**Table 2.** Productivity data for AP Canada Geese at four nesting sites in the Ungava Bay region in 2008.

Site (north → south)	Clutch Size		Nest Initiation Date		Apparent Nest Success (%)	
	2008	Long-term Average	2008	Long-term Average	2008	Long-term Average
Aupaluk	4.18	4.02	24 May	25 May	na	63
Qikirtajuaq Island	4.86	4.01	21 May	28 May	na	48
Dry Bay	5.00	4.04	21 May	28 May	na	43
Big Island	4.80	3.98	31 May	29 May	na	38
Average (all sites):	4.71	3.96	24 May	28 May	na	49



**Figure 1.** Annual mean nest density and clutch size of AP Canada Geese in the Ungava Bay region.