

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Canada goose: pp 101-102.



## CANADA GOOSE

**Family** Anatidae

**Species** *Branta canadensis*

**Common name** Canada Goose

**Status** Introduced

**Abundance** Common

**Size** 830 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Black Swan 1200 mm)

**Habitat** A bird of lakes, wetlands and open countryside.

**Worldwide range** A North American species introduced into New Zealand as a game bird. Also introduced to the UK. In New Zealand it has established large populations in the South Island where they breed in the seclusion of the high country and winter nearer the coast. In the North Island populations are expanding.

**New Zealand range** Found throughout most of New Zealand.

## **Description**

**Head and neck** Black. **Face** Prominent white patch under eye to chin. **Upperparts** Brownish. **Breast and underparts** Greyish-brown barred with white. **Uppertail** Black with white under. **Bill** Black. **Legs and feet** Dark grey.

## **Conspicuous features**

- The contrasting black and white on the head.
- Greyish-brown breast barring.

## **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Scary and quickly takes to the air if disturbed.
- Rest on the water in large groups away from disturbance.
- In-flight birds fly in scattered skeins.

**Call** A musical double honk.

**Nest** A solitary nester which makes a bowl of twigs and grass, lined with feathers, usually on a mound with good visibility. Up to 5 white eggs are laid.

## **Where to find – North Island**

**Auckland** – North Shore sewage lakes next to northern motorway.

**Auckland** – Lake Pupuke at Takapuna accessed at Sylvan Park off Kitchener Road. P. 297.

**Auckland** – Western Springs Lakes. P. 297.

**Hauraki Plains** – Lake Patetonga on Hauraki Plains. P. 308.

**North Waikato** – Lake Waikare near Rangiriri. P. 309.

**North Waikato** – Lake Waahi near Huntly. P. 310.

**Waikato** – Hamilton Lake in the city. P. 311.

**Bay of Plenty** – Matata Lagoon. P. 320.

## **Where to find – South Island**

**Marlborough** – Lake Elterwater south of Blenheim. P. 345.

**North Canterbury** – St Annes Lagoon near Cheviot. P. 347.

**Canterbury** – Lake Ellesmere. P. 351.