

1977

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Recommended Citation

Buckalew, John H. (1977) "Distribution of Canada Geese," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 2 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.

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Distribution of Canada Geese

John H. Buckalew

The following data show the distribution of Canada Geese (*Branta c. canadensis*), banded in the James Bay area of Canada: Charlton Island, N.W.T. (100); Akimiski Island (1,000); and near Seneca Falls, New York (253). Charlton Island is approximately 75 miles east of Moosonee, Ontario, Canada, and Akimiski Island is approximately 135 miles north of Moosonee. Seneca Falls is located in the Finger Lakes area of north central New York.

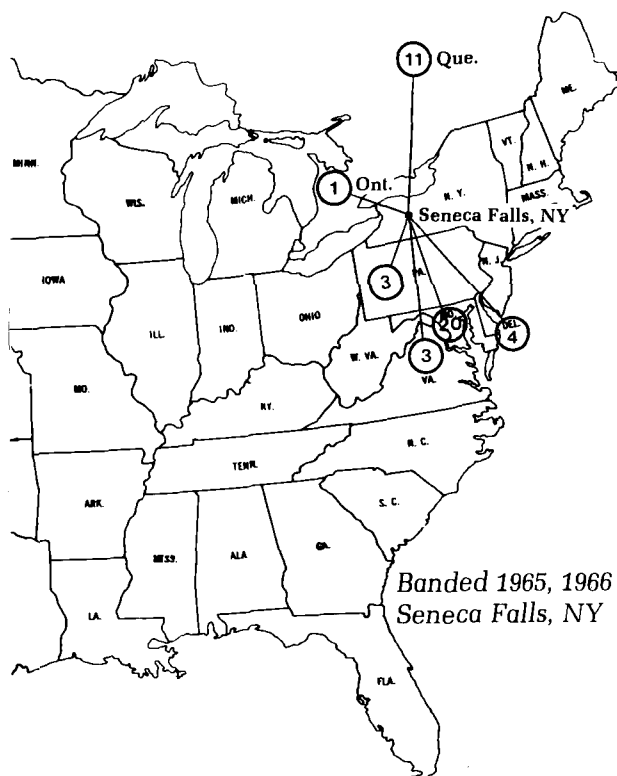
This is no attempt to arrive at any particular conclusion. The data are presented for the interest of those banders who do not have the opportunity to handle and band waterfowl. One interesting question arises, which I am not attempting to answer. Both Charlton Island and Akimiski Island are in James Bay and, geographically, only a short distance apart. However, all the recoveries of the Charlton Island birds were in the Atlantic Flyway, while recoveries from the Akimiski Island birds were divided — approximately 75% being in the Mississippi Flyway and 25% in the Atlantic Flyway.

Organizations directly contributing to this work are: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Individuals contributing are: Alex Hunter (at that time an employee of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, who accompanied me on several banding trips into the James Bay country) and Vernon E. Dewey (stationed at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge near Seneca Falls, New York).

Banded near Seneca Falls, NY

Band No.	Date Banded	Recovery Location	Date Recovered
488-12570	04-16-65	Trappe, MD	12-02-70
508-30499	05-04-65	Taylor's Bridge, DE	01-07-67
508-88211	04-16-65	Povungnituk, Que.	07-00-65
508-88212	04-16-65	Mountaintop, PA	10-21-71
508-88259	04-08-65	Upper Can. Migr.BR, Ont.	05-05-70
508-88307	05-26-66	Lewisetta, VA	01-06-67

Birds from these bandings were recovered in the following states: Pennsylvania, 3; Virginia, 3; Maryland, 20; Delaware, 4; and two Canadian



Banded 1965, 1966
Seneca Falls, NY

Provinces, Ontario, 1; and Quebec, 11. One bird, No. 508-88259, was trapped and released at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall, Maryland.

Distances from site of banding Seneca

Maryland, Trappe	250 mi.
Delaware, Taylor's Br.	250 mi.
Quebec, Povungnituk	1,200 mi.
Penna., Mountaintop	150 mi.
Ontario, Brockport	100 mi.
Virginia, Lewisetta	375 mi.

Banded at Charlton Island, NWT, Canada

Band No.	Date Banded	Recovery Location	Date Recovered
508-98014	07-14-55	Charles City, VA	12-19-55
508-98016	07-18-55	Rochester, NY	11-26-55
508-98041	07-18-55	Charlton Is., NWT	07-09-56
508-98072	07-24-55	Whorton, MD	11-26-57
508-98088	07-24-55	Factory River, Que.	05-03-58

Distances from site of banding Charlton

Quebec, Factory R.	75 mi.
NWT, Charlton Is.	00 mi.
New York, Rochester	625 mi.
Maryland, Queenstown	950 mi.
Virginia, Richmond	1,100 mi.

Methods of recovery

Banded near Seneca Falls, NY

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Shot	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	3	1	3
Retrapped					1	1		1	1	

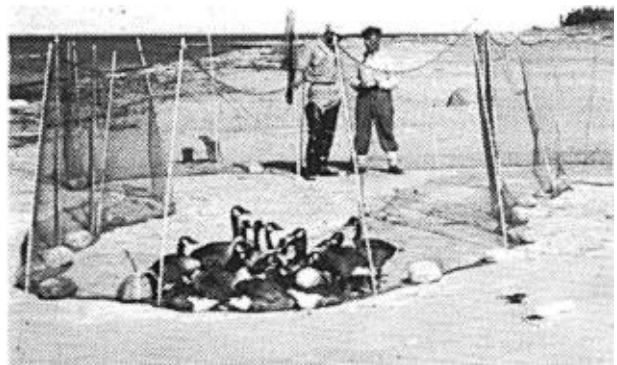
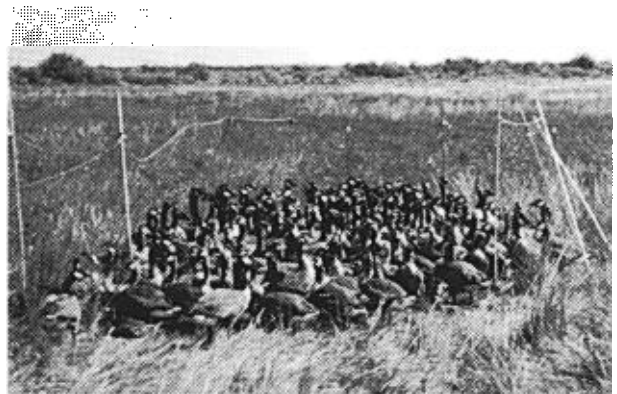
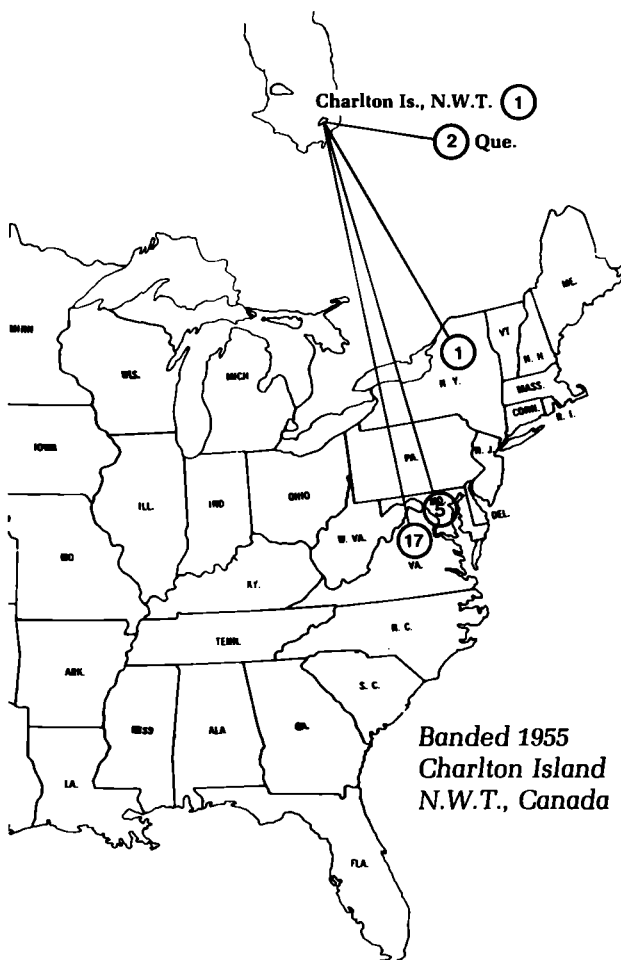
Banded on Charlton Island, NWT, Canada

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1964
Shot	17	2	2	1	1	1
Retrapped	1					

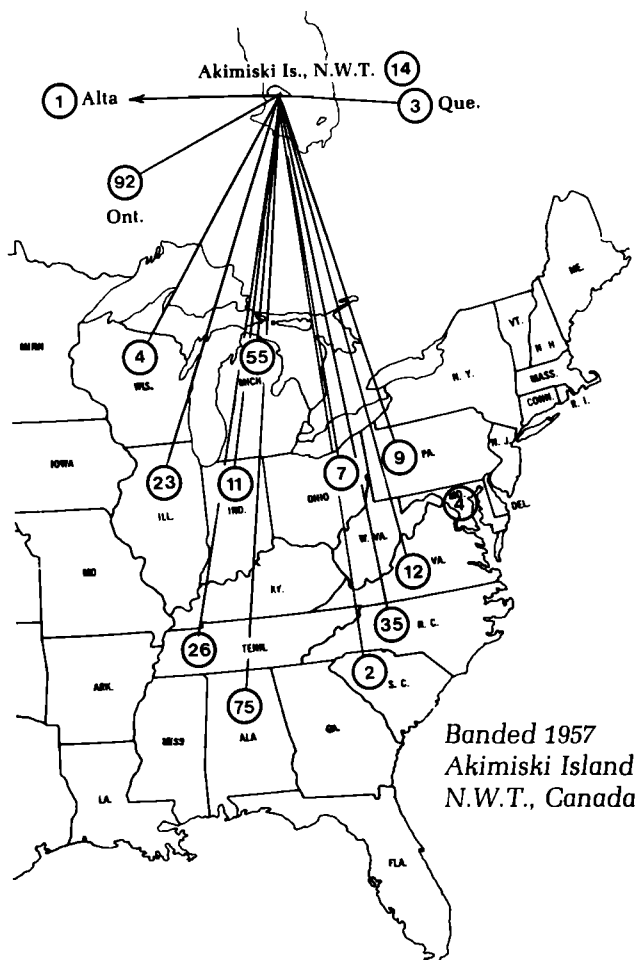
Banded on Akimiski Island, NWT, Canada

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1976
Shot	96	66	61	27	6	21	7	13	9	10	6	6	4	1	2	2	1
Retrapped	15	13	4	3	1	1		2	1	1	2	1		1			

There were 26 recoveries from these bandings, as follows: Quebec, 1; Northwest Territories, 1; Maryland, 5; and Virginia, 17. The 17 Virginia recoveries were all within a 20 mile area along the James River. Bird No. 508-98041 was recaptured and released on Charlton Island.



The Akimiski banding produced 377 recoveries — 267 in the States and 110 in Canada. Comparatively large numbers were recovered in a few areas. The



Decatur, Alabama area produced 58; Albany River, Ontario, Canada, 24; Attawapiskat River, Ontario, Canada, 23; Fennville, Michigan, 19; Ansonville, North Carolina, 24; Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama, trapped and released 15. In subsequent banding operations on Akimiski Island, 6 were trapped and released. Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary, Kingsville, Ontario, Canada, trapped and released 9. Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge trapped and released 6. One bird was trapped 3 times at the Jack Miner Refuge, and was later shot on Akimiski Island.

70½ Lake Avenue, Wolcott, NY 14590

(Ed. note: Mr. Buckalew is 65 years old and worked as a Refuge Manager under the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for 35 years as well as being a U.S. Game Management Agent. These activities took him from the Arctic to Florida and as far west as Wisconsin. He started banding in 1927 and is particularly interested in the colonial birds of the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula.)

Banded on Akimiski Island, NWT, Canada

Band No.	Date Banded	Recovery Location	Date Recovered
508-09005	07-11-57	Fennville, MI	10-00-72
508-09020	07-11-57	Huntsville, AL	11-07-66
508-09056	07-13-57	Mississa River, Ont.	05-09-63
508-09087	07-13-57	Herrin, IL	12-01-57
508-09142	07-13-57	Akimiski Is., NWT	05-03-66
508-09158	07-13-57	Springville, TN	12-10-60
508-09198	07-14-57	Fowler, IN	11-14-57
508-09214	07-14-57	Hopewell, VA	12-12-60
508-09223	07-15-57	Romancoke, MD	12-27-60
508-09245	07-15-57	Ballard WMA, KY	12-19-66
508-09320	07-15-57	Fremont, OH	Fall '72
508-09340	07-17-57	Horicon NWR, WI*	10-14-61
508-09388	07-17-57	Povungnituk, Que.	09-00-68
508-09457	07-19-57	Columbia, SC	11-23-57
508-09519	07-19-57	Linesville, PA	10-24-59
508-09789	07-23-57	Brooks, Alta.	06-25-68
508-09990	07-24-57	Ansonville, NC	11-19-59

* Trapped and released

Distances from site of banding Akimiski

Michigan, Fennville	800 mi.
Ontario, Mississa River	200 mi.
NWT, Akimiski	00 mi.
Indiana, Fowler	1,000 mi.
Maryland, Romancoke	1,050 mi.
Ohio, Fremont	925 mi.
Quebec, Povungnituk	500 mi.
Alberta, Brooks	600 mi.
N. Carolina, Ansonville	1,000 mi.
Alabama, Huntsville	1,350 mi.
Illinois, Herrin	1,000 mi.
Tennessee, Springville	1,250 mi.
Virginia, Hopewell	1,150 mi.
Kentucky, Ballard	1,050 mi.
Wisconsin, Mayville	800 mi.
Penna., Linesville	950 mi.
S. Carolina, Columbia	1,100 mi.

