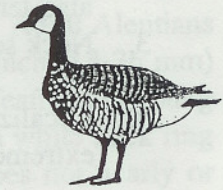


1. Cackling (*minima*) - aka Cackler.

1. Smallest Canada goose, 1 1/2 times size of mallard.
2. Relatively rapid wing beat.
3. Call is a high-pitched yelp.
4. Breast dark brown or bronze color, often with purplish cast.
5. Short, stubby bill (culmen), usually less than 1 1/4 inch (32 mm) long.
6. White neck ring sometimes present, but generally very thin and incomplete.
7. Forehead slopes back from bill; roundish head shape.
8. Cheek patches often continuous under head, but many separated by black feathering.
9. Could have yellow plastic neck collar (so do some white-fronted geese, or "specks").



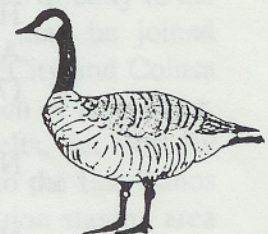
2. Aleutian (*leucopareia*) - A federally listed endangered species.

1. Slightly larger than Cackler.
2. Breast color variable, but usually gray-brown. Never has purplish cast.
3. Bill (culmen) length usually 1 1/4-1 1/2 inches (32-38 mm).
4. White neck ring present in all adults, usually wide and pronounced (hatch-year birds generally do not exhibit good neck ring until first spring).
5. Thin dark border of feathering usually present just below white neck ring.
6. More abrupt forehead and flatter top to head than other Canada's in its size class.
7. Cheek patches nearly always separated by black feathering under chin.
8. Could have a light gray plastic neck collar or a colored leg band (usually blue, yellow, red or green).



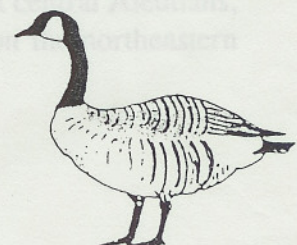
3. Taverner's (*taverneri*).

1. Closely resembles Aleutian in many respects, but usually slightly larger.
2. Breast color variable, but usually slightly lighter than Aleutian. Darker breast than Lesser.
3. Can have white neck ring on occasion, but almost always incomplete.
4. Rounder head than Aleutian.
5. Usually has continuous white cheek patch under head, but not always.



4. Lesser (*parvipes*).

1. Medium-sized goose, usually slightly larger than Taverner's.
2. Light breast color.
3. Overall shape and color resembles "Mini-Western".
4. White cheek patch almost always continuous under head.

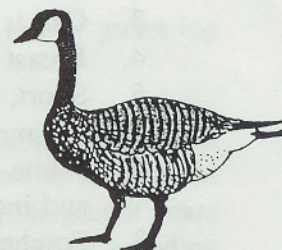




Canada Goose Field Notes (cont.)

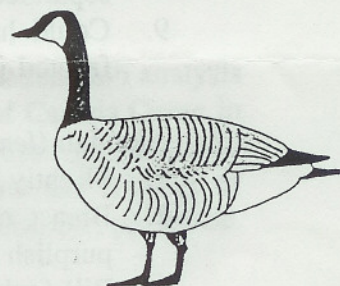
5. Dusky (*occidentalis*).

1. Medium-large goose; larger than Lesser, but smaller than Western.
2. Dark breast color; typically a rich chocolaty brown, but may also tend towards gray.
3. Neck seems to merge with chest. A few birds may show neck ring.
4. Localized distribution in California, usually found in the extreme northern coastal portion of the state.



6. Western (*moffitti*) - aka Honker or Great Basin.

1. Largest Canada goose in the West, twice the size of Aleutian.
2. Relatively slow wing beat.
3. Call is a deep, resounding "ahh-onk".
4. Light breast color.
5. Long bill and neck.
6. Could have red (orangish) plastic neck collar.



NOTE: If these general descriptions seem somewhat vague, that's because this is the real world. Some birds fit these descriptions very well, but others do not. Some subspecies cannot be identified with certainty in the field. Canada goose subspecies are basically a continuum from small to large, and many overlap at the edges. Voices are also a continuum, from the yelp of the Cackling to the honk of the Western. There is no substitute for experience in observing the various subtleties associated with these subspecies. With practice one can become more proficient at separating these birds.

Observers are urged to report sightings of Aleutians or birds thought to be Aleutians to:

Aleutian Canada Goose Investigation  
c/o Wildlife Field Studies  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 826-4759

Paul Springer  
1610 Panorama Drive  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 822-3867

Nearest California Department of Fish and Game office or State Wildlife Area.

Nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office or National Wildlife Refuge.

Paul F. Springer  
R.B. McNab 1990