

KML GEESE

SPECIES : BRANTA CANADENSIS



- Life Span: 12 years in the wild
- Clutch Size: 2 - 10 eggs
- Appearance: black head and neck, brown back, cream breast, and white chin strap
- Wingspan : 4 - 5.6ft

WHY ARE THE GEESE HERE?

Migratory geese from Northern Canada arrive at the Lodge late Summer/ early Fall to take advantage of the "perks" the KML golf course offers while experiencing their annual wing molt (loss of flight feathers). In late Fall they will continue their journey South.

THE "PERKS"

- **Open Space:** Geese love open spaces. Wide-open spaces allow them to spot predators before they get too close
- **Water:** Geese love various bodies of water. Ponds provide geese with safety from predators that can't swim and a source to clean their feathers
- **Food:** Geese aren't allowed in the Lodge building, but they don't mind! There is plenty of food for them on the course. Geese graze on the golf course's freshly mowed grass and pond vegetation

WHY ARE WE NOT GETTING RID OF THE GEESE?



Wild Life and Habitat Management : We want to learn how to foster a harmonious relationship between human recreation and the natural environment.

This strategy for maintaining the Lodge golf course follows the guidelines of **Audubon International**.

IMPORTANCE

1

WETLAND-TO-WETLAND DELIVERY

Dispersal (internal and external) of biological matter by waterbirds can help a species shift their range. A species' gene pool becomes introduced to a new location, making it easier for the species to avoid inbreeding and increase the ability adapt to changing environments. Having many types of genes gives species a stronger toolkit for facing adversity.

INTERNAL DISPERSAL (ENDOZOCHORY)

Seeds and larvae are ingested by geese and travel through their digestive system, eventually being deposited via waste to a new location.

EXTERNAL DISPERSAL (ECTOZOCHORY)

Seeds, eggs, and other tiny organisms can also get caught on goose's feathers or feet and be carried to a new location.

2

POOP IN MODERATION

In small, properly distributed quantities, the high nitrogen and phosphorus content of geese waste promotes healthy, lush green growth in our turf.

NEGATIVES



1

INTRODUCTION TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Geese don't choose what they eat or who hitches a ride on them. Sometimes they may bring an unwanted species that could lead to damage on an unprepared ecosystem.

2

POOP IN EXCESS

One adult goose can produce up to 2 pounds of feces a day. The waste from Canada Geese is high in phosphorus which can result in algae blooms in our ponds (leading to eutrophication) and the "burning" of our vegetation (the manure would then be referred to as "hot fertilizer").

WHAT IS EUTROPHICATION?

The process where the introduction of excess nutrients in a body of water leads to the rapid growth of algae. Too much algae can block sunlight needed for the growth of other aquatic flora and as the algae dies, bacteria uses mass amounts of oxygen to break up it up into organic matter which results in dead zones (zones in the water with little to no oxygen- no life can survive).

WHAT IS HOT FERTILIZER?

Manure that is too high in nitrogen leading to the death of the flora you place it on.



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ON THE COURSE

- When on hole 6, take a look at the pond. Do you see algae floating at the surface?
- Where do you see the most goose poop? On which hole, why might that be?
- When you go near the geese, do they fly away? If not, what do they do instead and why?
- Do you see any babies or juveniles or even eggs. If not where might they be?
- Look very closely in the tall grass. Try to find trails left behind by a group of geese (this would be seen as flattened grass).



To see our journey with the KML wilderness golf course visit keweenawmountainlodge.com

