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# **The introduction and naturalisation of birds**

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# All-Ireland survey of Canada geese *Branta canadensis* and greylag geese *Anser anser*, 1994

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The Canada goose *Branta canadensis* and the greylag goose *Anser anser* have naturalised introduced populations in Ireland. Canada geese were surveyed in Ireland in 1969 (Merne 1969) but greylag geese have never been systematically surveyed in Ireland. Both species were surveyed whilst in moult (between June 13 and July 31) in 1994.

This survey shows that neither Canada geese nor greylag geese have exhibited the population growths shown in Britain and may not, therefore, pose a significant threat to agriculture. Nevertheless, Canada geese have increased in numbers, from 299 individuals in 1969 to 538 individuals in 1994. The greylag goose is more numerous and widely distributed in Ireland than the Canada goose, with a total of 977 introduced greylag geese found in Ireland in 1994. Of the 25 sites in which Canada geese were found, only ten sites held breeding pairs, whereas 14 of the 33 sites holding greylags contained breeding pairs.

Merne, O.J. 1969. The status of the Canada goose in Ireland. *Irish Bird Report*, 17: 12-17.

