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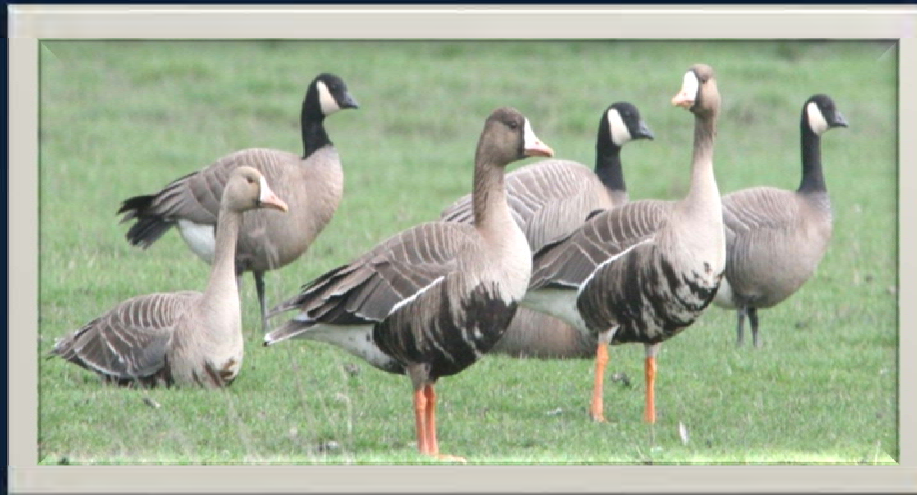
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Climate Change, Its Effect on Migration Patterns of the Cackling Goose and White-Fronted Goose in the Willamette Valley, and Implications for Goose Management



By Kelly Warren

Prepared for
The Pacific Flyway Council

September 1, 2010

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Abstract

This thesis considers the question of whether climate change is affecting the migration patterns of geese in the Pacific Flyway, specifically cackling geese (*Branta hutchinsii minima*) and Pacific white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons frontalis*). Ancillary questions that are considered are as follows:

- If global warming is affecting these species, what is the nature of the effects?
- How are the changes affecting the human environment and what can be done about these effects?

In 1994, the majority of the cackler population in the Pacific Flyway began to winter in Oregon's Willamette Valley rather than in their historical wintering areas in California's Central Valley. In recent years, the Pacific white-fronted goose has shown a change in behavior similar to that of cacklers just before their major shift. The reasons for this shift have not been clear, though climate change, agricultural shifts, or competition with other species were thought to be possible causes.

Analyses of historical breeding and wintering surveys, bird band data, harvest data, agricultural data, and climate and weather data were undertaken in the course of this thesis to see if the cause or causes could be identified. The results showed that climate and weather data, i.e. an increase in average annual temperature coupled with occasional severe winters, most closely correlated with the cacklers' shift northward. The data comparison revealed that there is a direct relationship between cacklers and a warming shift seen on the wintering grounds. There also was a secondary correlation between the northward shift and recent changes in agricultural crops in the Willamette Valley. Substantially less data are available for white-fronts, and the relationship between their recent migration changes and climate and/or other factors is much less clear.

The following recommendations for management and further study are aimed at more completely understanding the scope and causes of migration shifts and formulating well-founded management plans for geese in the Pacific Flyway:

- Continue research to determine if climate change is causing changes in goose population numbers and behavior.
- Expand breeding ground flight surveys to include cacklers and habitat preference to learn how habitat change on the Y-K Delta is altering cackler behavior and breeding success.
- Expand radio transmitter studies and collar programs for cacklers in Oregon and Washington to verify northerly wintering shifts.
- Expand collar programs for cacklers wintering in the Willamette Valley to determine if the population is continuing to shift northward.
- Expand banding programs for white-fronted geese to gather more data about migration patterns.
- Develop models that will allow researchers and managers to correlate migration behavior with various environmental factors including climate change in order to: 1) determine which factors are causing migration changes in specific waterfowl populations and 2) allow managers to make changes to management plans in advance of rapid changes.

- Inform the public about how it can assist in collar surveys or volunteer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This will enable USFWS to have more concrete data and give the public an opportunity gain a greater understanding of geese and goose management.
- Expand research on urban cackling geese to determine the nature and scope of their effect on the human environment and to devise management strategies.
- Research energetics in migrating geese to determine whether the shift in migration patterns has its basis in climate change.
- Increase data exchange and coordination among agencies.
- Formulate and implement plans at the city and county levels to manage growing numbers of geese in urban areas.
- Recognize and anticipate the possibility that goose populations may move into new wintering areas and formulate plans for management of those species.
- Implement low cost techniques, such as more liberal bag limits and seasons, hazing, etc., to assist agricultural landowners in decreasing goose-related crop damage.

1. INTRODUCTION

Until recently, very few geese used western Oregon and southwest Washington for wintering. California was the primary wintering ground for goose subspecies such as cackling geese (*Branta hutchinsii minima*), white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons frontalis*), Taverner's geese (*Branta hutchinsii taverni*) and lesser Canada geese (*Branta canadensis parvipes*). Within the last 25 years, geese have been rapidly shifting from traditional wintering areas in California to western Oregon and southwest Washington (Warren 2007). Increased winter temperatures may be a major contributor to this change. Over the last 20 years, average fall and winter temperatures have increased 1.89°F in the Willamette Valley (Flowers 2010). This phenomenon has had, and is expected to continue to have, a significant impact on goose behavior and, consequently, management of goose populations in the Willamette Valley.

This thesis considers the question of whether climate change is affecting the migration patterns of geese in the Pacific Flyway, specifically cackling geese (cacklers) and Pacific white-fronted geese (white-fronts). Ancillary questions that are considered are as follows:

- If global warming is having an effect on these species, what is the nature of the effects?
- How are the changes affecting the human environment and what can be done about these effects?

Indications are that these goose species have altered their migration timing and wintering areas in recent years. The changes are presenting challenges to waterfowl managers, farmers, and hunters.

Background information containing pertinent information about goose behavior, migration routes, wintering areas, habitat, behavior, and management is presented in Section 2. Section 3 describes the methods employed in the study. Data was obtained from both existing literature and original data collection. In Section 4, the results of the data collection are presented. Sections 5 and 6 contain a discussion of the information obtained, conclusions, and recommendations. A reference list appears in Section 7.

2. BACKGROUND

Anthropological data have shown that the Willamette Valley has been an important wintering area for geese since the end of the last Ice Age nearly 15,000 years ago (Pacific Flyway Council 1999a). Bellrose (1981) indicates that the wintering population and numbers appeared to be quite stable. The main species wintering in the valley was the dusky Canada goose; an average of approximately 19,000 dusksies overwintered annually in the Willamette Valley (Pacific Flyway Council 2008a). Remnants of geese found by archeologists as well as fossil records indicate that only the dusky wintered in the Willamette Valley in the past; there is no evidence that cacklers or other subspecies of Canada goose wintered in the valley. However, beginning in the 1980s, greater numbers of cacklers began to show up in the Willamette Valley as that species shifted northward from traditional wintering grounds in California. This shift has continued at a rapid pace until, today, nearly 90 percent of the geese that overwinter in the Willamette Valley are cacklers.

In addition to the cacklers, four other goose subspecies appear to have shifted, or to be in the process of shifting, their traditional wintering grounds to the Willamette Valley and the Oregon coast. These four subspecies are Taverner's, Aleutian (*Branta hutchinsii leucoparica*), Lesser, and Western (*Branta canadensis moffitti*). White-fronted geese are beginning to exhibit the same signs exhibited in the 1980s by cacklers prior to their shift.

This thesis focuses on the cackling goose and the Pacific white-fronted goose. These species were chosen because they make up the majority of the goose populations within the Pacific Flyway. If these species begin to winter farther north, the natural and human environments and goose management in the Pacific Flyway will be greatly affected.

The reasons for the changes have not been precisely determined, but it is hypothesized that climate change is a major contributor. For example, surveys on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Y-K Delta) in western Alaska have shown that river channels that used to be around 10 feet wide have grown to nearly 50 feet in width due to increased erosion. Erosion of river channels was, until recently, kept in check by the underlying layers of permafrost on the Delta. However, average summer temperatures have risen in Alaska, which has resulted in melting of exposed permafrost. This has caused river channels to widen and has shortened the length of time water is held in potholes in the Delta's wetlands. In turn, the nesting success of waterfowl species that are more dependent on a large quantity of water has been adversely affected. Birds that nest in upland areas, however, appear to be more successful (C. Dau, USFWS, personal communication, June 2009).

Within the past 15 years, the number of geese wintering in the Willamette Valley has increased from about 100,000 to about 400,000 (Pacific Flyway Council 2009). The shift of wintering goose populations into western Oregon has posed a number of management problems for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The geese feed upon Willamette Valley grain and grass fields, which are an important component of Oregon's agricultural economy. Larger numbers of geese mean greater depredation of the fields and requests by farmers for help controlling the damage.

2.1 GEESE IN THE PACIFIC FLYWAY

2.1.1 Cackling Geese



Flock of Cacklers in Willamette Valley

Migration and Breeding Areas

Cackling geese migrate north in the spring to the Y-K Delta (Figure 1), stopping in the intertidal marshes of Cook Inlet to rest and increase energy reserves for breeding. They also use the pastures and other agricultural lands near Palmer, Alaska. Nearly all of the primary spring habitats in Cook Inlet are within protected state wildlife refuges. Cacklers are an important subsistence harvest species for Alaska Natives.

Nesting occurs in the extensive pond and meadow mosaic habitats of the outer Y-K Delta (Mickelson 1975; Ely et al. 1996). Most nests are established on small islands in pothole ponds; nest densities are somewhat “clumped.” Cacklers also make extensive use of wet tundra and river/slough bank meadows of *Carex* sp. and other wetland vegetation (Babcock and Ely 1994).

Cacklers nest somewhat earlier than other goose species. Placement of nests on the small islands allows them to escape from terrestrial predators and to distance themselves from the nests of more aggressive goose species and subspecies. Cacklers also remain fairly close to water during the nesting season; they are rarely found more than 30 yards from water and, if threatened, will go to the water to escape the threat.

Cacklers leave the breeding grounds in mid-October. Migration appears to coincide with the onset of fall storms and associated strong northwest winds in western Alaska (Gill et al. 1997). The intertidal marshes and coastal wetlands, particularly Ugashik Bay on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, are vital fall staging habitats (Figure 2). Cacklers use these areas, grazing on pond shorelines, to build up body mass for the southward migration. Roosting occurs mostly on exposed intertidal bars (Gill, Bollinger, and Petersen 1986; Sedinger and Bollinger 1987). Most of the primary use areas in Ugashik Bay are in protected status as are portions of cackler habitat within the Cinder River Critical Habitat Area.



Figure 1: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS 2003)



Figure 2: Important Fall Staging Areas in Alaska for Cackling Canada Geese (Pacific Flyway 2003)

In some years, e.g. 1987, large portions of the population may bypass traditional Alaskan staging grounds and fly directly to wintering grounds (Gill et al. 1997). It appears that cacklers can fly non-stop from the Alaska Peninsula to the lower Columbia River.¹ Occasionally, cacklers are sighted in northern Puget Sound (primarily Skagit Flats (Figure 3)), the northern Olympic Peninsula, and eastern Washington during fall migration.



Figure 3: Skagit Flats in Washington State

The geese generally begin to arrive in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon in mid- to late October, with the peak of the population arriving between October 25 and November 7. In some years, the population arrives early. In 2009, for example, a majority of cacklers were recorded in late September. Cacklers are an important species for sport hunters in Washington and Oregon.

Wintering Areas

Historically, most cackling geese wintered in central California (Figure 4) (Nelson and Hansen 1959; King and Lensink 1971; Raveling 1984). Banding and marking studies were conducted between 1982 and 1984 on the Y-K Delta and in northern California. Subsequent observations of these geese in 1984 and 1985 illustrated the typical winter distribution prior to the population increase and geographic shifts of the 1990s.

¹ Gill et al. (1997) documented 11 marked birds that departed the Alaska Peninsula and arrived in the Klamath Basin within 48 to 72 hours.



Figure 4: Central Valley, California

The winter distribution of Cackling geese has shifted markedly northward in recent years. Since 1985, all banding and marking has occurred on the Y-K Delta and none has been done in California. Nonetheless, banding data (Section 3.1.3) illustrate the dramatic change in winter distribution in the 1990s. During the 10-year period between 1988 and 1997, observations of marked cackling geese in southern Oregon and California dropped to very low levels. Concurrently, the number of geese observed in the Willamette Valley to Lower Columbia River region of Washington and Oregon has increased greatly (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Distribution of Cackling Geese (Warren 2007)

This shift coincided with drought conditions in California between 1986 and 1992, which may have affected winter habitat quality and, consequently, use by cacklers. The average winter temperature in the Willamette Valley was also nearly four degrees higher in the mid-1990s than 50 years ago (Flowers 2010). Since 1993, the majority of cackling geese have wintered in Oregon and Washington. Starting in 2006, cacklers have been seen in areas of southern British Columbia as late as December. In the fall of 2008 and 2009, cacklers established a small wintering population in southern British Columbia (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, February 2010).

Population History

The cackler population numbered around 400,000 birds in the late 1960s, but dropped to around 20,000 in the mid-1980s. This decline was thought to be due to a combination of effects from subsistence harvest in Alaska and sport harvest on the wintering grounds, especially in California (Pacific Flyway Council 2008). However, it is now known that the decline was likely a combination of low population numbers and a geographic shift in wintering. The geese formerly were found primarily in the Klamath Basin and Central Valley during the winter where they were routinely counted in wintering ground surveys. They were not specifically included in Willamette Valley counts, so were not recorded until the shift northward became more apparent (B. Bales, ODFW, personal communication, December 2009). Populations rebounded following harvest restrictions implemented in 1979 and concerted flyway-wide restoration efforts that started in 1983 (Pamplin 1986). Figure 6 shows the 20-year decrease in cackler numbers on their staging grounds in Central Valley and the Klamath Basin due to their shift to the Willamette Valley.

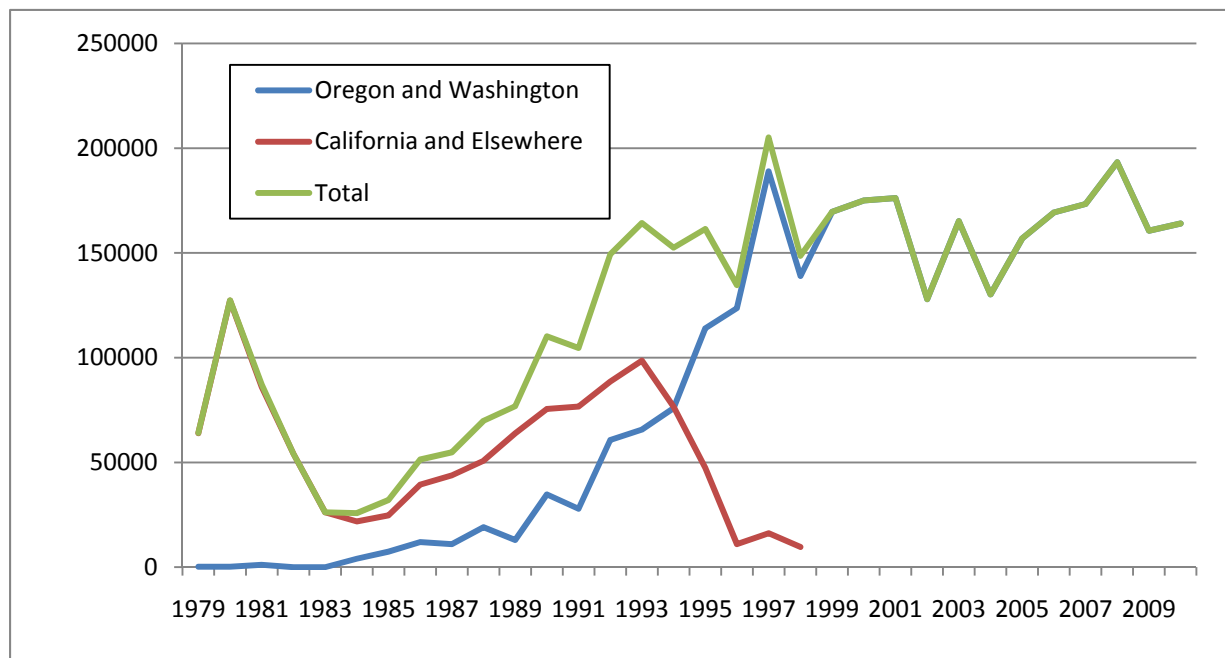


Figure 6: Total and Regional Cackler Population (Pacific Flyway Council 2010)

Prior to the 1990s, the cackler was an infrequent resident in the Willamette Valley and lower Columbia River, spending staging in the Klamath Basin and wintering in California's Central Valley (Figures 4 and 5). Now, 95 percent of the cackler population winters in Oregon. The shift to wintering grounds in Oregon coincided with a population rebound; by 1997, there were about 200,000 geese wintering in the Willamette Valley and lower Columbia River (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). Since then, the number has fluctuated, but has remained between 150,000 and 200,000 birds. The overall trend currently is for continued increases in the cackler population.

The 2010 estimate projected by USFWS is 188,000. The three-year average estimate is 180,000, which is the highest three-year trend in many decades (B. Reishus, ODFW, personal communication, July 2010). However, the population has fluctuated over the past five years, making it difficult to identify a long-term population trend. The population is still below management objectives and, therefore, is being carefully managed in order to eventually meet the management objective set by the Pacific Flyway Council (Section 2.2.1).

2.1.2 Pacific White-Fronted Geese



Breeding Areas

Nearly all Pacific white-fronts breed from the Alaska Peninsula north to the Yukon River, with the majority nesting on the Y-K Delta (Palmer 1976; Timm and Dau 1979). Aerial surveys, which are usually conducted in June, indicate that the Y-K Delta has hosted an average of nearly 97 percent of Pacific white-fronts over the past 10 years (Eldridge and Dau 2002; Conant and Groves 2002). About 75 percent of the population breeds in the narrow coastal zone while another 22 percent are dispersed across the interior of the Delta. The remainder nest in Bristol Bay and the Innoko River basin.

Migration and Wintering Areas

The fall migration of Bristol Bay Pacific white-fronts begins in early to mid-August. Geese that migrate along the Alaska Gulf Coast in late August and early September and pass through Cook Inlet and the Copper River Delta (Figure 2) before the hunting season opens may be of Bristol Bay origin (Hawkings 1982, Ely and Dzubin 1994); this assumption is based on a few band recoveries from Cook Inlet. The Y-K Delta Pacific white-fronts, unlike cackling geese, do not usually aggregate in concentrated staging areas. They apparently remain on the Y-K Delta or east of the Delta until late September (Figure 7) (Ely and Dzubin 1994).

The numbers shown in Figure 7 denote the primary wintering and staging spots of white-fronts and are in order of importance with "1" being high importance and "12" being lesser importance (Ely and Takekawa 1996). Fewer than 10,000 Pacific white-fronts winter in the Klamath Basin of northeastern California and southeastern Oregon; several hundred Pacific white-fronts overwinter in the lower Columbia River.

Alaska's Copper River Delta (Figure 2) is the last known major use area north of the Klamath Basin (Figure 4). There have been only two band recoveries in Southeast Alaska and one in British Columbia. As the population has increased, more Pacific white-fronts have been observed in western Washington and Oregon during September.

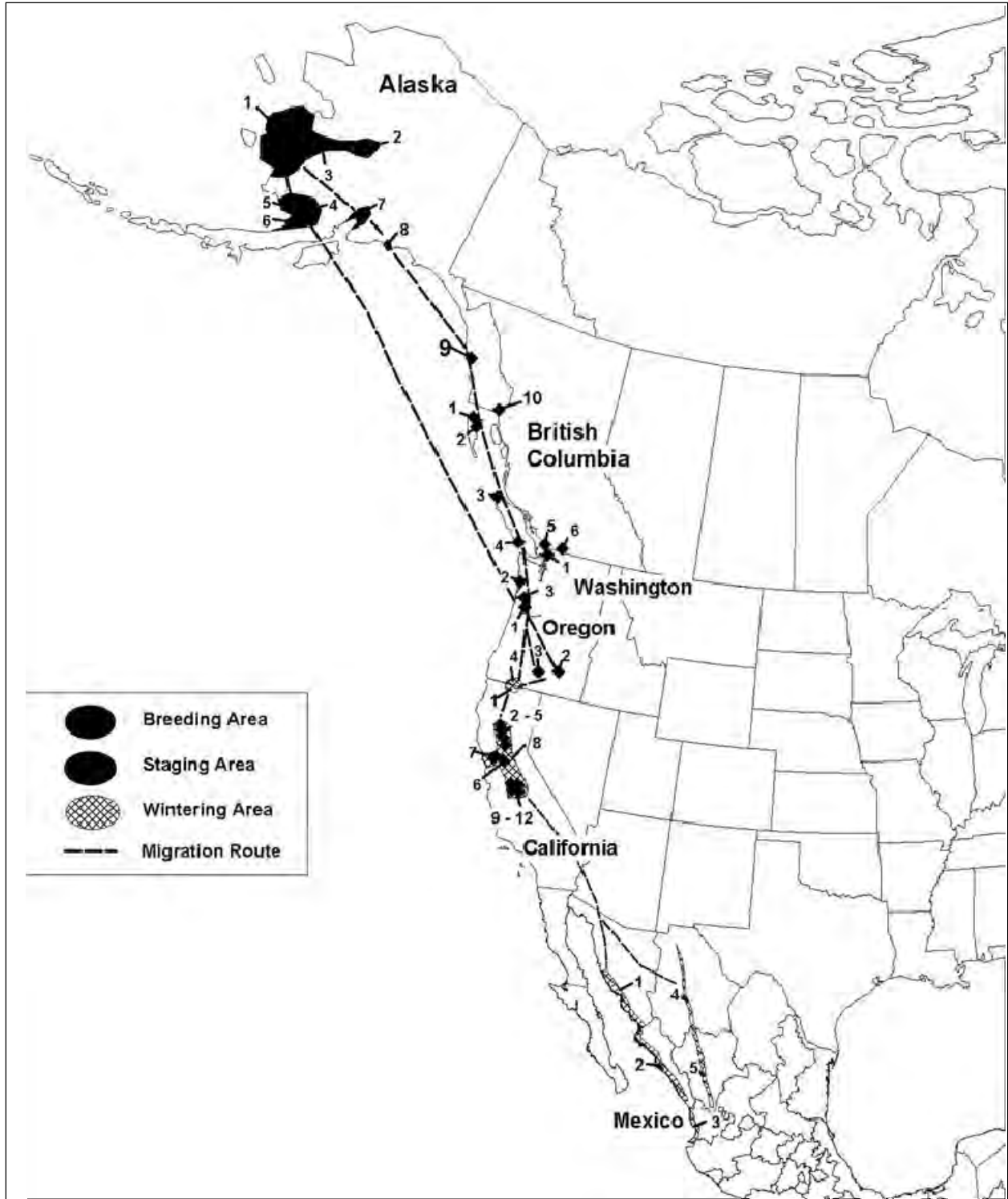


Figure 7: Important Staging and Wintering Areas for White-fronted Geese (Pacific Flyway Council 1999)

It appears that most Pacific white-fronts move nonstop from the Y-K Delta to the mouth of the Columbia River, migrating through central and eastern Oregon in October before arriving at wintering grounds in the Klamath Basin and Sacramento Valley. The geese move through the same area again in January and February before heading northward to the breeding grounds in Alaska. In recent years, however, most of

the population apparently has bypassed the traditional Klamath Basin staging area in the fall, migrating directly to the Central Valley of California. When migrating north however, white-fronts have increased in number in the Klamath Basin. The geese mainly concentrate on national wildlife refuges on the west side of the Sacramento Valley in the early fall because other habitats are limited. Increasing urbanization, changes in agriculture, hunting pressure and the large influx of Pacific white-fronts has limited habitat and resources in their wintering area.

As the fall and winter progresses, the Pacific white-fronts disperse into other parts of the Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Recent trends (1998-2002) show significant numbers of Pacific white-fronts arriving in the Sacramento Valley by late September, with 100,000-200,000 present by the first week in October. Although diminished in numbers from past years, the first arrivals in the Klamath Basin are seen about the end of August with the peak occurring in mid-October (USFWS 1999). These arrival dates are still true today according to USFWS surveys. A small percentage of Pacific white-fronts, mostly from Bristol Bay, migrate early through the Klamath Basin in September, overfly the Sacramento Valley, and winter in the northern highlands of Mexico (see below) (Ely and Takekawa 1996).

Recoveries from Pacific white-fronts banded in Alaska show a relationship between breeding and wintering areas (Lensink 1969). It appears that birds from the Y-K Delta stage and winter in the Pacific Flyway. The majority of recoveries from the three banding regions on the Y-K Delta occurred in California (Pacific Flyway Council 1987).² Only 7 percent of the Pacific white-fronts banded in the Innoko River basin (Figure 2) have been recovered in California. These are likely “molt migrants”³ and comprise both Pacific white-fronts from the Y-K Delta and Tule white-fronts from Cook Inlet. The Innoko River basin hosts Pacific Flyway white-fronts, Mid-Continent white-fronts, and Tule white-fronts during the molt. The westernmost banding sites in the Innoko basin have produced the highest proportion of California band recoveries (>20 percent), which is congruent with the distribution of molting Tule white-fronts in the region.

Past banding in the Klamath Basin has indicated that Pacific white-fronts migrating through the Klamath Basin in September and early October were apt to be recovered in Mexico, whereas geese banded after 15 October are rarely recovered there (C. Ely, USGS, personal communication, 2010). The earlier birds are now known to be primarily from the Bristol Bay group (Ely and Takekawa 1996). At least 10,000 Pacific white-fronts winter in Mexico. Winter survey counts in Mexico conducted every third year by the USFWS indicate that the numbers of wintering geese range from 10,000 to more than 20,000 (USFWS 2001). Band recovery data indicate that the propensity of Pacific white-fronts to winter in Mexico is highest in birds from the southern part of the breeding grounds, particularly Bristol Bay. Bird banding data showed that over 90 percent of Pacific white-fronts from Bristol Bay wintered in the interior of Mexico (Ely and Takekawa 1996).

Recoveries in Mexico varied among geese banded in the north Y-K Delta (none in Mexico), middle Y-K Delta (2.5 percent), and south Y-K Delta (23 percent). Analyses of historical banding have shown that 9 to 10 percent of birds from the primary Y-K Delta breeding grounds are recovered in Mexico, primarily from the states of Sinaloa, Nayarit, and Sonora (Lensink 1969, 1986). Between 20 percent and 25 percent

² Bands recovered in California were as follows: 70.0 percent from the south Y-K Delta region, 90.5 percent were from the middle Y-K Delta region, and 84.6 percent were from the north Y-K Delta region.

³ Molt migrants are defined as non-breeding yearlings that migrate to unfamiliar areas to clear habitat for young of that year.

of band recoveries are from the interior highlands of Chihuahua and Durango. Ely and Dzubin (1994) suggest that the Pacific Flyway white-fronts wintering in the interior highlands may not be sympatric with Mid-Continent birds using areas further south and east in Mexico.

Population History

There are two subspecies of white-fronted geese that breed in Alaska and winter mainly in California: the greater white-fronted goose (*A. albifrons frontalis*), also called the Pacific Flyway Population of Greater White-Fronted geese, or Pacific white-front, and the Tule greater white-fronted goose (*A. a. gambelli*). Each of these subspecies is managed through different plans in the Pacific Flyway (Section 2.2).

In addition to the Pacific Flyway Population of white-fronted geese, there is a Mid-Continent Population of white-fronted geese (another population of *A. a. frontalis*). Some of the geese from Mid-Continent Population breed in interior and northern Alaska and are managed through a separate plan adopted by the Central, Mississippi, and Pacific Flyway councils in 1998.

Fall counts of Pacific white-fronts declined from a population peak estimate of 480,000 birds between 1966 and 1968 to a low of 73,100 in 1979 (O'Neill 1979; Timm and Dau 1979; Raveling 1984). Harvest restrictions instituted in the late 1970s and a conservation program begun in 1984 (Section 2.2.2) helped return the population to acceptable levels by 1996. Though growth slowed somewhat in the late 1990s, the population numbered 433,400 in 2001 and 600,000 by 2004, as determined by breeding and wintering ground surveys (Pacific Flyway Council 2004). The population this past year has grown to nearly 650,000 white-fronts (Figure 8).

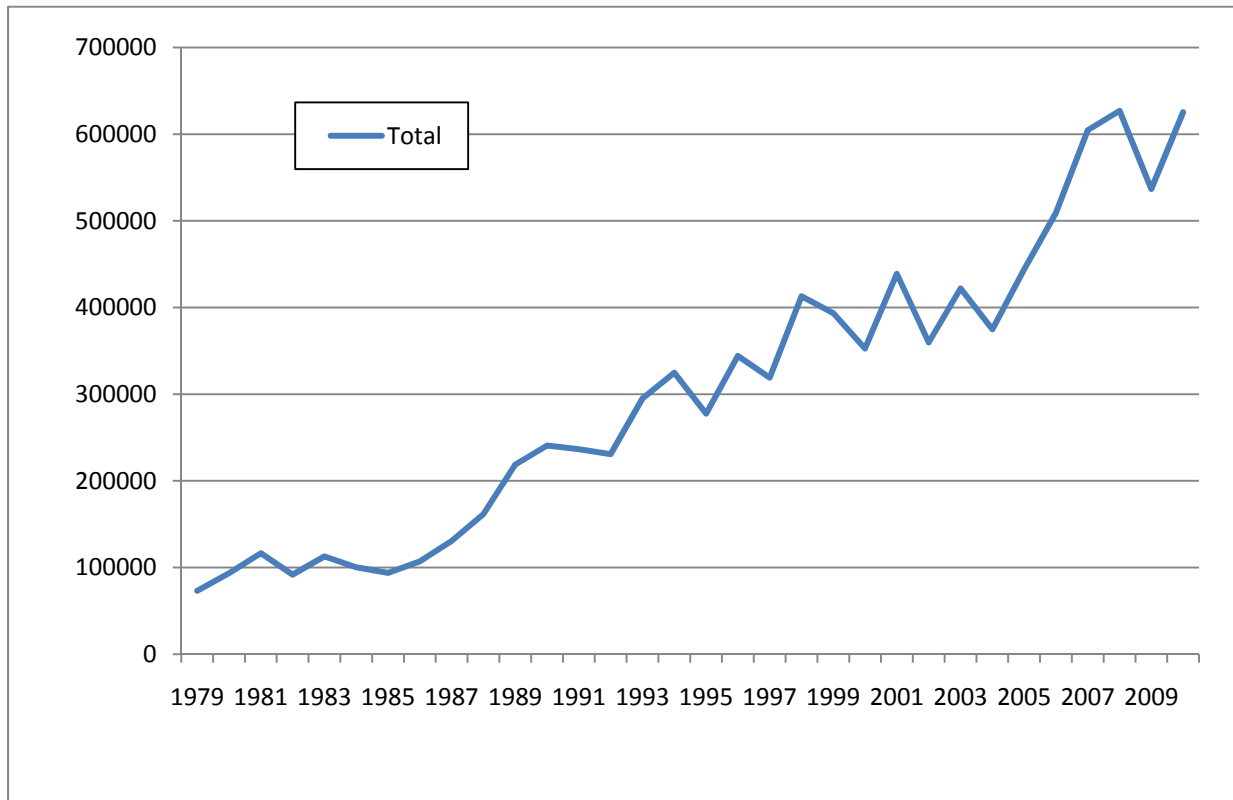


Figure 8: Total Population of White-Fronted Geese 1979-2010 (Pacific Flyway 1999)

At the present time, the white-front population is higher than it has ever been, according to USFWS surveys (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010; Pacific Flyway Council 2010). The estimated population is nearly 350,000 birds greater than the management objectives set by the Pacific Flyway Council (Section 2.2.1) which has resulted in large impacts on agriculture. Special hunts have been initiated in an effort to alleviate crop depredation. However, so far there has been little success in lowering the population.

Lowering the population through hunting has been hampered by the fact that protection of the Tule white-front is a top priority. Conservative bag limits are still in place and hunt areas are closed in California to protect this species. Until the Tule rebounds, it is unlikely that hunting will be a means of controlling the white-front population. Therefore, because conditions on breeding areas have been favorable and sport hunting continues to be controlled, it is likely that the Pacific white-front population will continue to increase.

2.2 GOOSE MANAGEMENT

2.2.1 Pacific Flyway Council

The federal governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, under the authorities of bilateral treaties and federal legislation, are ultimately responsible for the protection and conservation of migratory birds in North America. In the United States, this responsibility has largely been delegated to the USFWS.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico and the former Soviet Union countries for the protection of migratory birds. Under the Act, taking, illegal killing or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. The act also states that hunting seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act authorizes state governments to adopt and enforce laws and regulations protecting migratory birds, as long as they are not inconsistent with those of the federal government. That is, state authority may be more restrictive than the federal authority, but not more liberal. Each state has constitutional and legislative mandates and a body of laws and regulations that direct the conservation and public uses of migratory game birds within their borders.

Migratory birds use four major migratory routes (Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic flyways) in North America. Because of the unique biological characteristics and relative number of hunters in these regions, state and federal wildlife agencies adopted the flyway structure for administering migratory bird resources within the United States. Each flyway has its own council. In the U.S., the Pacific Flyway includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming west of the Continental Divide.

The Pacific Flyway Council is an administrative body that fosters cooperation among public wildlife agencies for the purposes of protecting and conserving migratory birds in western North America. The Council is composed of the director or an appointee from the public wildlife agency in each state and province in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Each species and subspecies of waterfowl in the United States is managed separately by region. Management in each region is established by a regional council consisting of representatives from management agencies. Management strategies for waterfowl populations in the Pacific Northwest are developed by the Pacific Flyway Council. Plans are the primary tool for managing and making management decisions about individual species, subspecies, and populations. The management plans are subject to revision as new data and information about a waterfowl population are developed.

Management protocols and implementation are first established by the Pacific Flyway Council and then by the USFWS and state fish and wildlife agencies. Because birds fly over more than one state in their migrations, management is handled by the federal government through the Pacific Flyway Council and the USFWS. Once protocols and strategies are agreed upon, they are incorporated into the management plan for that particular subspecies.

Scientific data is gathered annually on waterfowl populations. Changes in population dynamics and migration patterns within the Pacific Flyway require revision of management plans. These revisions, in turn, require research to determine the most effective ways to manage each goose species (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010). Targeting management strategies for changes in wintering and breeding areas can help forestall problems for Willamette Valley farmers while simultaneously maintaining the goals set by agency management plans for individual goose species.

The focal species for goose management in Oregon and southwest Washington is the dusky Canada goose. The dusky Canada goose is considered a “less successful” subspecies that has been displaced on wintering grounds due to the increase in cacklers (Pacific Flyway Council 2008).

In recent years, managers have had to act quickly to accommodate the dramatic increase in cackling geese in the Willamette Valley. In the 1980s and 1990s, little action was taken by the agencies because the cacklers were not expected to shift in such large numbers. When the rapid shift occurred, managers were not prepared to implement new management strategies that would accommodate cacklers in their newly chosen wintering ground. The agencies’ lack of preparation resulted in larger than necessary expenditures of public funds and in actions that had little or no effect on the problem. Today, agency personnel recognize that it will be essential to plan for the worst-case scenarios in terms of migration shifts to prevent the crisis-mode actions that occurred with the rapid increase in the cackler population in the 1980s and 1990s (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010).

The Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan has guided conservation and harvest of the cackling goose for the past 15 years. The precursor of the Y-K Delta Management Plan was the Hooper Bay Plan, which was signed in January 1984 by representatives of the coastal states, the USFWS, and Alaska subsistence hunters. Representatives from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California attended a series of meetings in 1983, which led up to the 1984 agreement. The intent of the meetings was to identify critical problems with goose nesting, to agree on harvest restrictions, and to develop a broad-based conservation program (Pamplin 1986). Similar annual meetings have continued under the Y-K Delta plan to assure consistency between management plans for the Pacific Flyway and for the Y-K Delta. Through these efforts, the cackler population rose to about 192,000 birds in 2008 (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010).

Subsistence harvest is also covered by the Y-K Delta plan. This is a very important issue for Native people in both Alaska and Canada. Native people rely on subsistence hunting for food and as well as an important cultural activity. The Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan calls for restrictions on both the breeding and wintering grounds to protect cackling, white-fronted, and emperor geese (*Chen canagica*) as well as black brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*). In order to ensure a viable supply of birds for subsistence harvest, the Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan calls for restrictions on hunting, egg harvest, and other activities that affect populations depended upon by subsistence users. These measures are aimed at protecting cackling, white-fronted, and emperor geese while maintaining subsistence opportunities for Alaskan and Canadian Natives. The plan requires that federal harvest management for all geese on the wintering grounds be weighed against the needs of subsistence users. The current restrictions are to ensure that the population reaches a level where harvest will have little impact on the population while still maintaining the target population objective. The plan requires that federal harvest management for all geese on the wintering grounds be weighed against the needs of subsistence users.

2.2.2 Management of Cackling Geese and White-Fronted Geese

Goose species and subspecies are defined by the USFWS both geographically and by physical characteristics. For example, a cackling goose is any goose with a culmen (bill length) of less than 32 mm that breeds on the Y-K Delta in Alaska. Separating management by region and species/subspecies means that different management strategies are instituted for each species, subspecies, and population. Management strategies are based on population status, harvest, and migration change. Of these, population level is the most important factor in management of any particular subspecies. Another significant factor that can alter management plans involves human-geese conflicts on wintering grounds. For example, as goose depredation on agricultural lands escalates, hunts are enacted to lower the goose population.

Cackler Management

The current plan Pacific Flyway Management Plan contains measures that attempt to address the complexities of having two subspecies (duskies and cacklers) occupying the same wintering area. The objectives set by the plan are as follows:

- Achieve a population of 250,000 geese as measured by a 3-year average index of indicated breeding pairs, i.e. 27,660 breeding pairs, as determined by the Y-K Delta aerial breeding goose survey
- Promote an average annual population increase of 5 percent to 10 percent
- Manage for a winter distribution that allows for no more than 20 percent of the current population in the agricultural areas of the lower Columbia River and Willamette Valley⁴
- Maintain, manage, and enhance, where feasible, nesting, migration, and wintering habitats in sufficient quantity and quality to meet population objectives and public use goals
- Manage habitats and harvest to minimize crop damage consistent with Pacific Flyway plans and policies (Pacific Flyway 1999)

Increasing numbers of cacklers may result in more liberal season dates and bag limits as the population gets closer to its objective of 250,000. The Migratory Bird Treaty states that hunting cannot extend beyond March 10 so that the birds can feed and build up fat reserves for the long migration to the breeding grounds (Flowers 2010).

As the goose population increases, so will damage to agricultural crops and encroachment into urban areas. Revised management plans must include input from the Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Department of Agriculture Washington Farm Bureau, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The effects on agriculture were taken into account to a certain extent in the last management plan, but with increase in cacklers and white-fronts, more attention must be focused on crop damage.

The most dramatic changes in cackler numbers on the wintering grounds occurred in 1994 and 1995. During this time, numerous meetings of the Pacific Flyway Council were held in order to formulate an emergency management plan until a more permanent approach could be established. The result was a treaty among USFWS, the states of Oregon and Washington, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and

⁴ This objective is aimed at removing cacklers from the agricultural areas in the lower Columbia and Willamette Valley; the remaining 80 percent of birds would overwinter away from agricultural areas.

the Alaska Natives. The agreement called for collar and banding studies aimed at monitoring harvest levels so that the cackler population could be managed to ensure that it would not be overharvested in either Alaska or the Pacific Northwest.

Currently, in Oregon, farmers feel goose depredation is affecting their crops to the point that their livelihoods are at risk. Starting in fall 2010, the Agricultural Depredation Plan formulated by the Pacific Flyway Council will be re-written to reflect current impact of cacklers on new areas in Oregon and southwest Washington. The cackler management plan will also be opened and proposals will be presented to lower the population goal to a level that will not pose further risk of depredation.

In Oregon, the cackler wintering population has grown from 25,000 in the late 1970s to nearly 400,000 in 2009 (Section 2.1.1) and is continuing to increase. In the late 1980s, Oregon and the lower Columbia River were included in the cackler surveys. Adding these areas caused the overall population estimate to increase, but managers still decided to institute changes aimed at returning the cackler population to return to its historical levels.

In recent years, there have been increasing numbers of migratory geese using urban areas. For example, the number of urban geese within the city limits of Salem has increased nearly 50 percent between 2005 and 2010 (B. Bales, ODFW, personal communication, 2010). Urban areas provide safety from hunting and agricultural hazing, lower concentrations of predators, and optimal food sources such as fine grasses in golf courses and recreational fields. Increased numbers of geese in urban areas have resulted in negative effects such as water contamination and damage to athletic fields and golf courses due to large concentrations of feces that make areas cosmetically less appealing and pose human health risks.

Management of White-Fronted Geese

The Pacific Flyway Goose Management Plan contains the following management goal and objectives for Pacific white-fronted geese (Pacific Flyway Council 2003):

- Goal: Identify the needs and responsibilities necessary to cooperatively manage numbers and distribution of Pacific white-fronts in order to maintain population viability and to provide for aesthetic, educational, scientific, and hunting uses throughout their range
- Maintain a population index of 300,000 as measured by a 3-year average projected fall index derived from indicated total geese on aerial surveys covering the Y-K Delta and Bristol Bay areas
- Maintain, manage, and enhance nesting, migration, and wintering habitats in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the population objective and public use needs

White-fronts have recently been exhibiting changes in behavior that are thought to foreshadow a similar northward shift in wintering areas. For example, it has been observed that goose populations have “scout” birds that look for better habitat and food sources (Pacific Flyway Council 2008). Once the scout birds have identified a suitable wintering area, increased numbers of geese are seen in those areas during spring and fall migrations. Within a few years, the main population is staging longer in these areas and eventually will remain on the former staging grounds throughout the winter.

This is the same type of trend observed with cacklers starting in 1985. At first, several hundred cacklers started wintering in the Willamette Valley. By fall 1994 and winter 1995, the number of cacklers wintering in the valley had increased nearly 50 percent as the geese shifted from the Sacramento Valley northward (Warren 2007).

3. STUDY METHODS

Data and information for this thesis were obtained from a review of pertinent literature and unpublished data as well as from original field data.

3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Several types of data were analyzed in order to address the questions presented in Section 1:

- Historical breeding and wintering surveys
- Bird band data
- Harvest data
- Agricultural data
- Climate and weather data

Pertinent literature included USFWS data (published and unpublished), studies conducted by universities, ODFW data, journal articles, and some unpublished data. Of these, the most pertinent were the USFWS data. ODFW harvest data also played a significant role in addressing the project's questions and aided in identifying patterns during the comparison of climate and agricultural data (Section 4).

Only data and information from 1975 to 2010 were considered for this thesis. This time frame was chosen because it encompassed the period before, during, and after the postulated shift northward. Trends in migration changes (if any) would be evident in data generated in these years. The same time frame was used for weather and climate data also.

3.1.1 Historical Breeding and Wintering Surveys

Data from past breeding and wintering surveys between 1975 and 2005 were compared with current surveys (2005-2010) in order to detect changes in area usage, migration patterns, and timing. Very little data prior to 1975 exist. The most complete set of data is derived from annual breeding and wintering ground surveys conducted by the USFWS. USFWS began collecting these data in the 1950s from field observations and aerial surveys. Combining these data produces an average that is the most realistic population estimate for any given year. The data from USFWS current surveys are derived from the surveys conducted over several decades. All aspects of the survey method have been refined over the years so that errors are minimized and so that the surveys result in an accurate picture of the total population and any changes that may have occurred. In addition to ground surveys, USFWS uses photographic data, banding, and aerial surveys. The protocols also assure the consistency of data collection from one year to the next, allowing easy comparison of data collected decades ago to that collected more recently.

3.1.2 Historical Breeding Ground Information

Breeding ground surveys occur in Alaska's Y-K Delta (Figure 1) where USFWS randomly samples waterfowl nests to determine annual breeding success. USFWS protocols are followed yearly on the Y-K Delta for both cacklers and Pacific white-fronts in mid- to late June. USFWS provided an opportunity to

participate in a Y-K Delta ground survey crew during the summers of 2009 and 2010. Aerial surveys were conducted in July when the geese are in molt and unable to fly. During this time, the surveys are easier to conduct because the geese tend to gather together. The colony locations are marked with GPS coordinates which ensures that they are not counted twice.

3.1.3 Banding Data

Bird banding is an important source of information about bird populations, bird longevity, and behavior (territorial behavior, territory size, fidelity to territory, and reproductive behavior), especially dispersal and migration. Banding is supervised by the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory for USFWS and the Canadian Wildlife Service. This laboratory holds the database for all band data in the U.S. and Canada. All data from birds marked with a federal band are submitted to this laboratory; 99 percent of the banded birds in North America carry federal bands. The other 1 percent includes aviary, or private collection, birds.

Banding can be accomplished with metal leg bands or with other methods that are more visible to the observer, such as a “tarsus” band⁵ or neck collar. These bands are more visible than other types of bands, which means that they can be tracked without handling the bird again. A “mark-capture” technique can be used to estimate population sizes. Birds are marked and then recaptured. The ratio of the number of birds marked originally compared to those recaptured allows the total population to be estimated.

Analysis of banding information from waterfowl is completed annually. These data are used in development of hunting regulations and for detecting changes in waterfowl populations. Banding data can be used to assess hunting pressure, estimate productivity and survival and to measure the vulnerability of the age/gender classes to hunting pressure.

Band data specific to pertinent areas were reviewed for this project. Most data were obtained from USFWS’ Bird Banding Laboratory. For cacklers, the geographic area encompassed by the data used for this project extended from the southern Willamette Valley in Oregon through the State of Washington. Washington State data were included because it was speculated that it could reveal any northern shifts of this species. Data reviewed included live sightings of collared or banded geese and data reported from harvested geese or those found dead.

For white-fronts, the geographic range of the data included Washington, Oregon, and California. Because so few white-fronts have been included in banding studies in the past, any band data at all for this species were considered useful to the project.

3.1.4 Harvest Data

Harvest data were obtained from three sources: 1) wing and parts survey⁶ information, 2) Harvest Information Program (HIP) data, and 3) permit zone data. The first two types of data were obtained from USFWS. Permit zone data are collected at check stations in the Northwest Permit Zone Area (Figure 9) and were obtained from ODFW. Combining the data from these three sources was expected to show migration trends based on the number of cacklers and white-fronts harvested over the years.

⁵ A tarsus band is placed on the leg and has three characters that can be read from a distance with a spotting scope.

⁶ USFWS looks at certain features on wings and tail feathers of harvested birds. The bird “parts” are voluntarily donated to USFWS by hunters for this purpose.

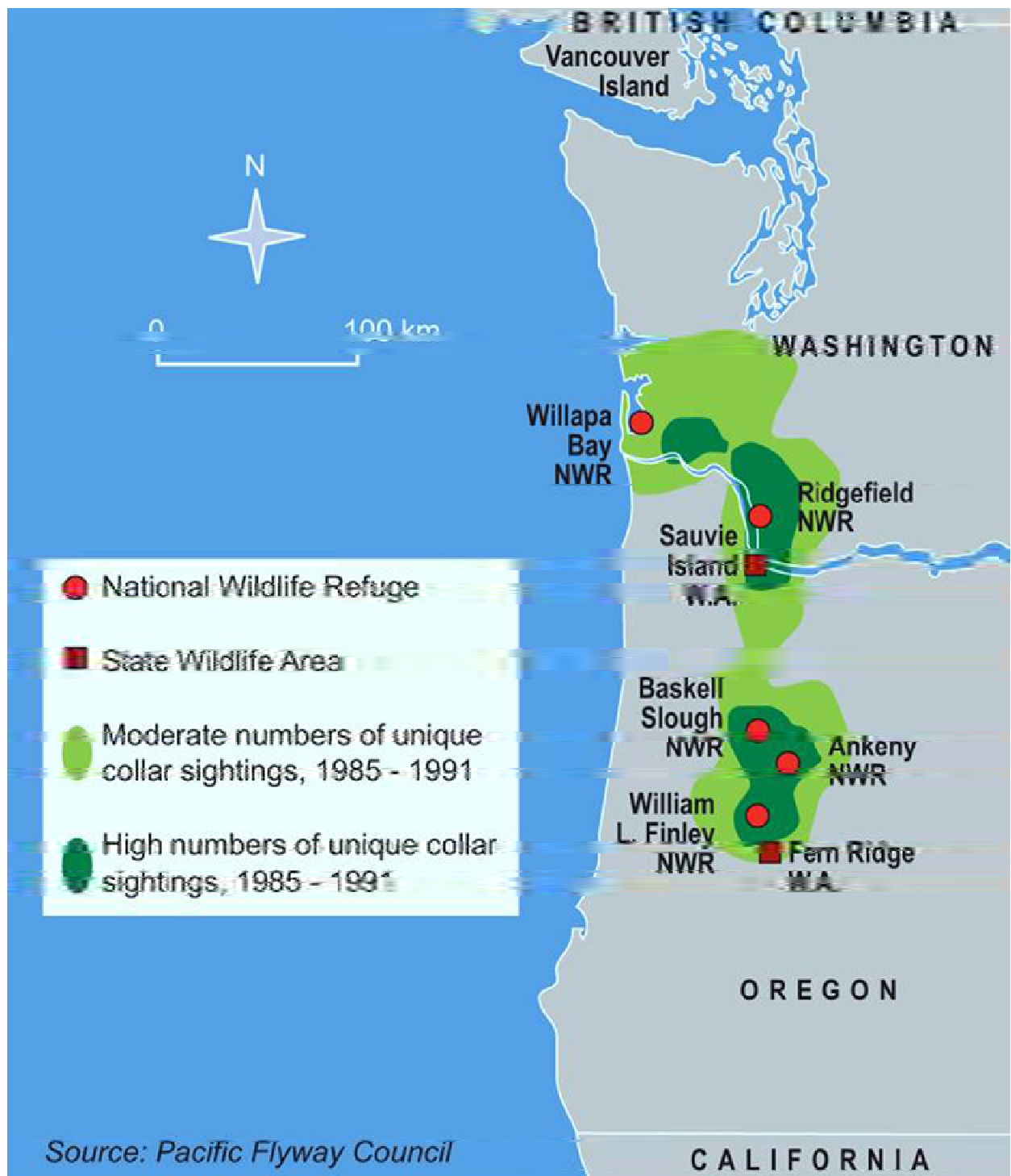


Figure 9: NW Permit Zone (Warren 2007)

USFWS conducts a voluntary “wing and part” survey on an annual basis. This information, combined with harvest rates in the HIP allows USFWS to estimate total harvest numbers for hunting zones nationwide. In addition, USFWS can determine the species and subspecies harvested by hunters.

Through HIP, state wildlife agencies and USFWS are developing more reliable estimates of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country. These estimates give biologists the information they need to make sound decisions concerning hunting seasons, bag limits, and population management. HIP is based on a voluntary survey of selected migratory bird hunters in the United States. In simplest terms, the state wildlife agencies collect the name, address, and some additional information from each migratory bird hunter in their state and send that information to USFWS. USFWS then randomly selects a sample of those hunters and asks them to provide information on the kind and number of migratory birds they harvest during the hunting season. Those hunters' reports are then used to develop reliable estimates of the total harvest of all migratory birds throughout the country.

Harvest data is also gathered from the Northwest Permit Zone in Oregon and Washington (Table 1) where, by law, all hunters must submit every goose harvested at check stations for examination to determine species and subspecies.

Table 1: Permit Zone Harvest Data for Cacklers and White-Fronts, 1985-2010 (ODFW 2010)

	Cacklers	White-Fronts
1984-85	0	not included
1985-86	8	not included
1986-87	19	not included
1987-88	54	not included
1988-89	26	not included
1989-90	16	not included
1990-91	18	not included
1991-92	42	not included
1992-93	36	not included
1993-94	72	not included
1994-95	1,220	not included
1995-96	1,758	not included
1996-97	2,503	not included
1997-98	3,446	44
1998-99	5,641	45
1999-00	7,302	18
2000-01	4,972	45
2001-02	3,676	14
2002-03	4,381	26
2003-04	3,631	16
2004-05	6,789	46
2005-06	4,734	47
2006-07	5,505	20
2007-08	5,899	50
2008-09	6,221	172
2009-10	6411	68

Checking species and subspecies is necessary in order to monitor whether or not Dusky Canada geese are inadvertently being taken. Because duskies are a “species of concern,” there are limits on how many duskies can be harvested per season. If that quota is reached, hunting is closed. Check station personnel measure certain physical attributes of each goose and record species and subspecies. This further refines the data on specific numbers of Canada geese, cackling geese, and Pacific white-fronted geese.

3.1.5 Radio Transmitter Data

Data on goose movements and locations can be revealed through use of radio transmitters. Information for this thesis was obtained by placing radio transmitters on geese as part of a study being conducted by a Ph.D. candidate at Portland State University. The study focused on Benton, Linn, Lane, and Polk counties. Geese were captured on the Finley Wildlife Refuge near Monroe, Oregon, using bait traps. The radio transmitters were mounted on neck collars and placed around the necks of the geese. Approximately seventy birds were radio-collared over a two-year span. The birds were then tracked during their wintering movements using “relocators” which send a signal when an observer is near a radio-collared goose. The transmitters’ batteries last about six to seven months in a radio collar. Since collaring occurred in December, January, and February, the radios cease to operate in June, July or August respectively.

3.1.6 Interpretation Aerial and Still Photographs

Historical and current aerial photographs of the Y-K Delta were obtained and topographical features analyzed for this thesis. In conjunction with other breeding ground surveys, aerial surveys are conducted to estimate nesting success and adult bird populations. Random transects are generated using a computer program (ArcGIS)⁷. The plane flies transects and “scatter shoots” the entire transect with a digital camera to ensure all waterfowl are recorded. The photographs are then analyzed to determine species and subspecies of geese. Aerial photos taken for this project were interpreted by USFWS and the data were made available to the author.

Counts of geese on the ground from still photos are often more accurate than counts made in the field (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010). Geese typically land in massive flocks and are constantly moving across a field while feeding. The movement can be “stopped” by taking still photos of the flock at times in sequence. The photos can then be analyzed to identify each species and subspecies, including marked birds. The number of birds of each species and subspecies in each flock can also be obtained. Though on-site viewing through a spotting scope is useful, a more definitive estimate can usually be obtained with photography.

3.1.7 Agricultural Data

Agricultural data was gathered from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and California Food and Agriculture Department. Each provided historical, current, and future trends in agriculture. This project focused on the period between 1970 and 2010. The agricultural data reviewed included farming practices in Central Valley California and the Willamette Valley in Oregon prior to the migration shift of cacklers. Agricultural practices during and after the migratory shift were examined to identify changes in potential food sources for the geese. Records from the Oregon Department of Agriculture were reviewed to determine the crops grown in the Willamette Valley and the percentage of each crop between 1980 and 1995 (ODA 2009), the greatest period of expansion for cacklers. Analysis of

⁷ ArcGIS is a highly accurate, geography-based system designed to provide useful information for decision-makers. It allows easy production of data, maps, globes, and models that can be easily accessed by the user in the field and the office.

more recent data was expected to reveal if the northward shift of cacklers is expected to be maintained or expanded and if a similar shift based on preferred foods would be expected for white-fronts.

3.1.8 Climate and Weather Data

Analysis of weather patterns and data was an important part of determining the correlation between the cacklers' and white-fronts' northward shift and climate change. Average winter temperatures, snow levels, and frequency and severity of winter storms in the Willamette Valley, central Washington, and California's Sacramento and Central valleys were reviewed and compared to increased usage of the Willamette Valley by geese for wintering.

3.2 FIELD STUDIES

In addition to analyzing historical survey data, original data were collected in the field and were used to address the questions posed in this thesis. The data were also entered into the USFWS database. Data for both breeding grounds and wintering grounds were collected. The data were collected by the author in strict adherence with USFWS protocols, which allows the data to also be used by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and by the Pacific Flyway Council. Collected data were submitted to the USFWS database managers to assure that its acceptability for inclusion in the database.

Winter data collection occurred in coordination with USFWS' annual wintering ground surveys. The annual survey involved ground and aerial surveys as well as reading "collars." More than 400 hours were spent in the field and more than 300,000 geese were logged. Data collected during the wintering ground survey were compared to those obtained on the breeding grounds for that year. Consistency or inconsistency of the numbers gives managers important information about the welfare of the population for that particular year including, breeding success, hatching survival, percent of eggs per female, and more. This information is used in establishing sport bag limits, subsistence harvest or in identifying special needs a particular species or population might have.

Winter fieldwork for this project was carried out in two consecutive years: 2008/09 and 2009/10. The area covered extended from Eugene, Oregon, to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Washington. USFWS, ODFW and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staffs have certain areas in which they collect data; the fieldwork performed for this project looked at areas not already covered by biologists from those agencies.

Areas are typically broken up by county with one survey per week in each county. In addition to specific areas that are surveyed weekly, the "Oregon General Zone" was surveyed by the author for a more complete survey (Figures 9 and 10). The general zone is rarely surveyed so additional data was collected beyond what was collected within the permit zone boundaries. The General zone extends from Portland to Eugene east of the I-5 freeway. Surveys were done three days a week, each day in a different survey area (county) in both the permit and the general zone.

Surveys typically begin in early morning at roosting areas as the geese are leaving for preferred feeding areas. The birds were followed by car to the feeding areas where they were counted and species/subspecies identified. The surveys were conducted with a spotting scope and binoculars as well as a digital camera. Photographs were particularly useful because counts could be conducted later from the pictures, which served as a verification of counts done in the field, thus lowering the margin of error.

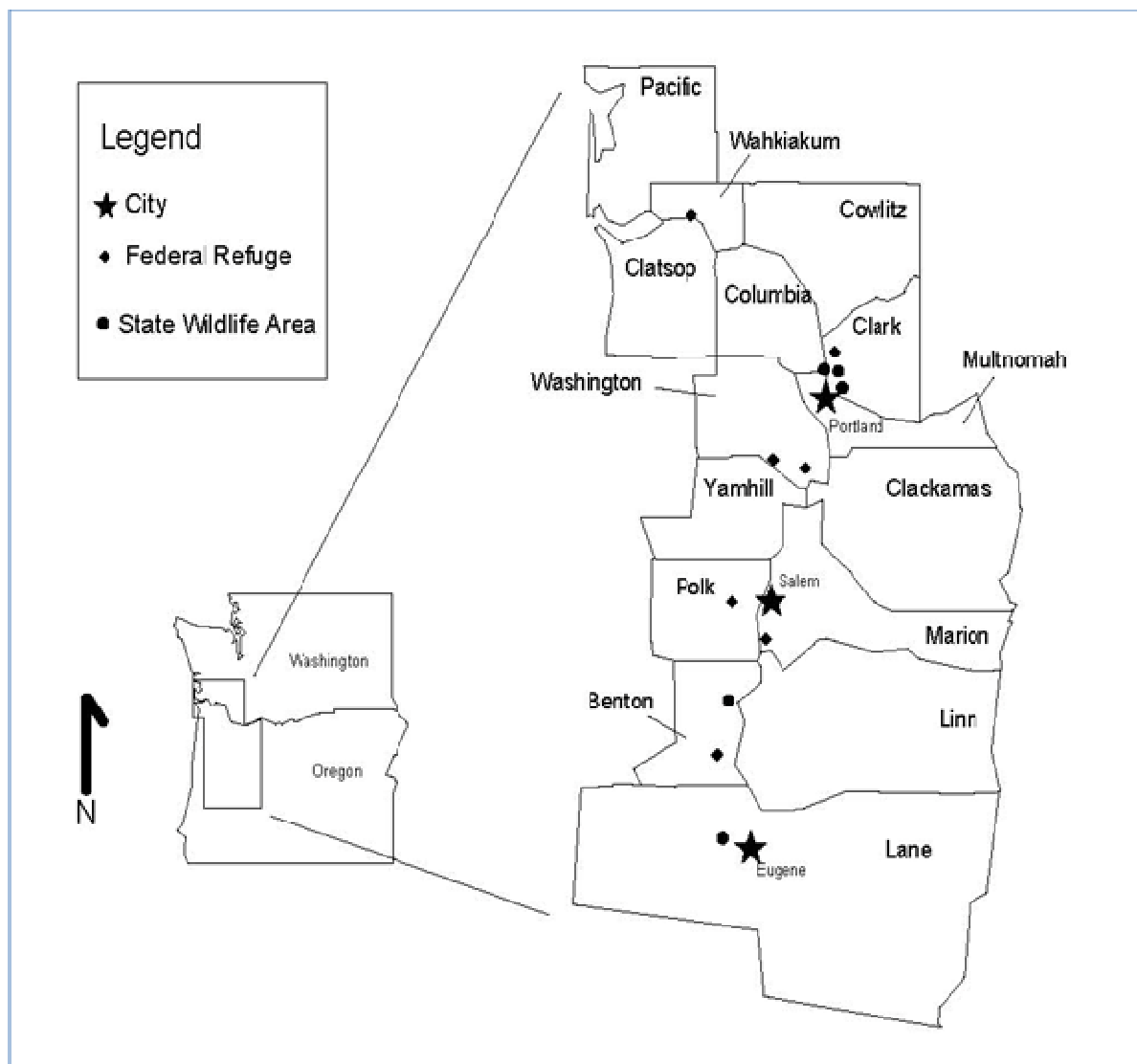


Figure 10: Areas Surveyed for Wintering Geese, 2008/09 and 2009/10

Each road in a survey area was covered to assure that the observer was seeing as many geese as possible. In some cases, access was limited because roads were private. Some areas had very few roads. This limited counts to areas that could be easily seen which meant, in some cases, that the counts were merely representative of the total number of birds in an area. In cases where roads were far from the goose flocks, it was difficult to identify species and subspecies. These limitations were noted on each data sheet. Inconclusive data sheets were eliminated from the final documentation.

A data sheet (Appendix A) was completed for each group of geese encountered. Information collected included date, time, bird location, number of birds of each subspecies, number of marked birds, name of the closest refuge, the latitude and longitude of the encounter location, and the total number of geese observed. The data were obtained from direct observation using binoculars, spotting scope, and camera with telephoto lens. The camera enabled groups of geese to be recorded for later species confirmation and, because the telephoto lens was more powerful than the spotting scope, made bird collars easier to read. This method allowed 100 percent success in reading collars on cackling geese in the 2009-2010 field season.

3.3 BREEDING SURVEYS

The USFWS conducts breeding ground surveys in Alaska's Y-K Delta. Waterfowl nests are randomly sampled to determine annual breeding success. Random sample areas are generated by computer; usually 80 to 85 sites are surveyed. A customized program within ArcGIS generates the randomized selection of 85 plots each year. Plots selected do not overlap any plots surveyed in the past 5 years. Boundaries of the survey area include lands on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Figure 1) containing medium and high nest densities of spectacled eiders because of their Endangered Species Act listing and geese. The nest densities are based on aerial and ground observations made between 1985 and 1993 (USFWS unpublished data). Because annual access cannot be assured, privately owned high density nesting habitat near Kokechik Bay, two parcels on south Nelson Island, and several tracts near Hazen Bay are excluded.

Between 1994 to 1997 and 2000 to 2010, plots were selected within an area 716 km square that comprised 5.6 percent of the total coastal zone of the Y-K Delta. Prior to 1994 and in 1998 and 1999, plots were selected within a slightly larger portion of the coastal zone. Each plot measures 800 m by 400 m and is surveyed on foot. The location of each nest found is recorded along with the number of eggs, egg condition, species, and estimated date of hatching.

Hatching is estimated by using historical data from past breeding ground surveys and studies that focus on incubation and hatch. During the nest plot survey, eggs are floated in water to determine hatch date. Eggs will float differently depending upon their maturity. A hatch date for the season can be determined by averaging the number of floating eggs for each species. Each species or subspecies typically will lay eggs at slightly different times, resulting in a range of hatch dates for any given season on the Delta.

Breeding surveys are time-critical and must be conducted as soon as the ice melts on the Delta, usually between May 26 and June 15. For this project, 17 nest plots within a 20-square mile area were sampled within a 15-day period. The nests occurred in a variety of habitats including upland, coastal, riparian, grassy plains, mudflats, and "pothole" ponds.

Each plot is surveyed by two people. Each person walks half the plot area following a GPS and proceeding in a zigzag manner, checking to make sure that all the area is covered. During the survey, birds flushing from nests are noted and the species identified. If unoccupied nests are found and no bird flushes, down and feathers in the nest are used to determine the species. All species of bird including waterfowl (duck, goose, swan), gulls, shorebirds, and songbirds are noted. An example of the survey form is found in Appendix A. For each nest, the following information is recorded:

- Plot number
- GPS location
- The name of the observer
- Goose species
- Nest location
- Number of eggs
- Maturity of the eggs (estimated hatching date)
- Evidence of predation in the nest
- Nest status (active or non-active)

During the 2009 and 2010 survey periods, 15 and 10 plots, respectively, were surveyed for this project. Figure 11 depicts the plots surveyed in 2010.

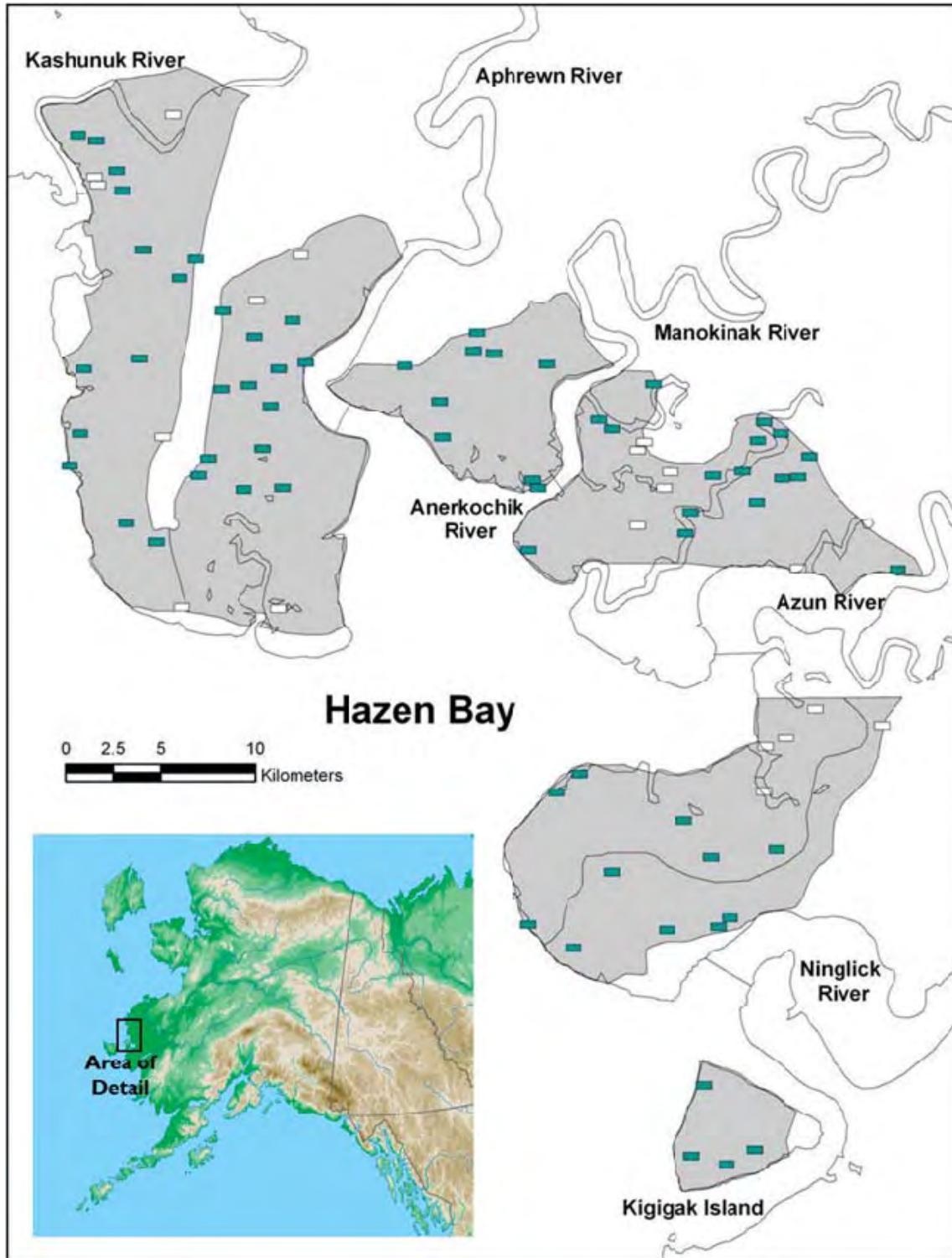


Figure 11: Nest Plot Survey Area, 2010 (USFWS 2010)

4. RESULTS

All data and collected from sources identified in Section 3 were reviewed and analyzed for completeness and applicability. Data that were not considered complete or accurate were excluded from the analysis. Data and information from studies that were not yet complete or appeared to be less applicable to the questions addressed by this thesis were not used in the data synthesis and analysis. For example, the radio transmitter study has not yet been concluded and the data from it were not included in this thesis.

In addition, the HIP harvest data, while helpful, was not as useful because its scale was too broad. The numbers harvested gave an idea of the overall harvest, but with a large margin of error. It also did not clearly identify where the birds were harvested, e.g. birds were identified only as having been harvested in Oregon. The USFWS data from breeding and wintering areas was much more useful because it could be used to cross-check other population estimates.

4.1 WINTERING AND BREEDING GROUND SURVEYS

Data obtained in the course of this project indicate that cacklers are arriving on the breeding grounds and nesting later than in previous years. The incubation date for broods is beginning to extend beyond the historical May 26 to June 10 “window” according to results from the nest plot survey. It is thought by USFWS biologists that this is due to the fact that cacklers and white-fronts are remaining on their wintering grounds past their historical departure dates (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010; USFWS 2009).

Cacklers also appear to be arriving on the wintering grounds earlier as well. This year, large flocks of cackler were sighted in the Willamette Valley during surveys in late September, nearly a month earlier than usual. This trend has been seen in years past, but this past fall was an extreme case. Data collected from surveyors corroborates this behavior (ODFW 2010). Comparison of this information with historical arrival and departure dates indicates a change in migration patterns nearly as significant as the northward shifts of the 1990s (Figure 12).

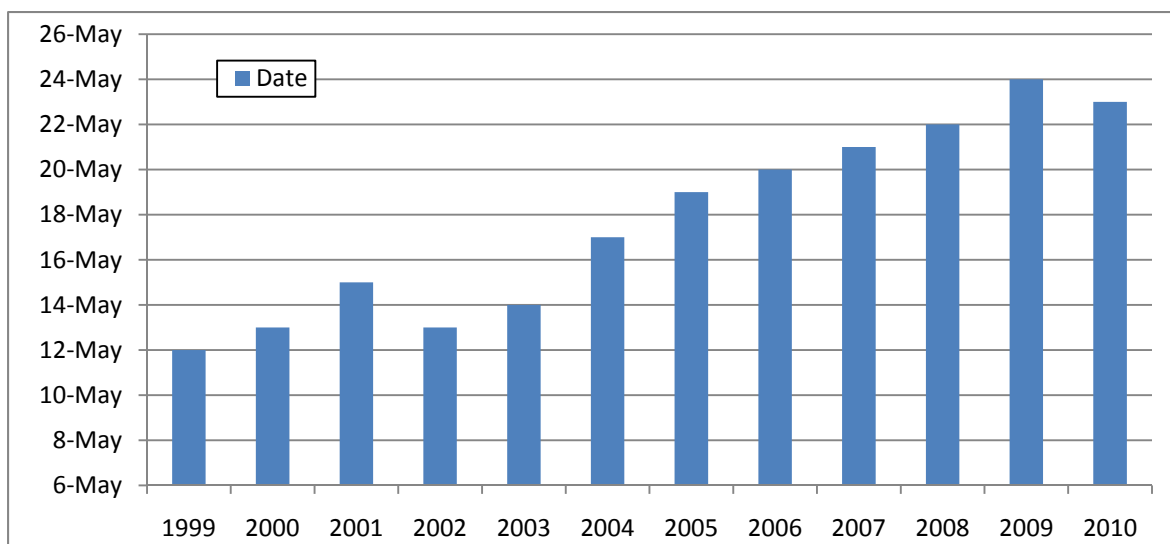


Figure 12: Departure Date of Cackling Geese from Wintering Grounds, 1999-2010

Direct observations of the breeding grounds as part of this project revealed that cacklers prefer potholes, uplands, and grass plains near a water source for nesting. White-fronts seemed to prefer uplands and grassy plains, but seemed to have little trouble nesting elsewhere as this species was observed in a variety of habitat types. According to data from nest plot surveys conducted over the past 30 years, the habitat of the Y-K Delta is changing. Winter temperatures have increased 2.2°F on the Delta between 1949 and 1998 (USFWS 2009). Substantial warming has also been documented in the Arctic, especially in the fall and winter months (USFWS 2009).

As a result, potholes appear to be holding water for a shorter time each year, likely because moisture is being lost from the ground in the Y-K Delta (USFWS 2009). This, in turn, is due to permafrost melting because of the warmer temperatures. Permafrost, i.e. permanently frozen ground, comprises soil, sediment, or rock that remains at or below 32°F for at least 2 years (USFWS 2009). North of the Brooks Range in Alaska, permafrost is continuous, extending from a few inches to nearly 1,000 feet below the ground surface (USFWS 2009). Permafrost supports the ground surface, controls soil temperature and moisture, modifies micro-topography, controls subsurface hydrology and rooting zones, and influences nutrient cycling. Recent studies have shown that permafrost is warming throughout most of the region. For example, the soil in the Arctic Coastal Plain in Alaska has warmed 5°F to 7°F over the period from 1977 to 2003 (USFWS 2009). During the 2009 and 2010 surveys on the Y-K Delta, erosion was evident on shorelines of the waterways and the Bering Sea. Because permafrost previously held them together, river banks and coastal cliffs are beginning to collapse in areas where melting has occurred. The alteration of the Delta due to permafrost melting may have significant impacts on waterfowl habitats in the future.

As mentioned in Section 2.1.2, the Pacific white-front population declined precipitously between 1966 and 1979, resulting in revised management including harvest restrictions. The population subsequently rebounded and, today, the white-front population exceeds the management objectives by more than 300,000 birds. In the last few years, USFWS ground survey crews have seen an 18 percent increase in white-front sightings in the Willamette Valley (Figure 13). These sightings have occurred mostly in early October when the geese may have been staging to migrate south. Though white-fronts previously overwintered in California, the numbers remaining through the winter in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington are increasing. The highest count of white-fronts took place during the 2008/2009 season. During this time period, thousands, rather than the expected hundreds, of white-fronts were counted in the wintering ground surveys. The overall numbers were combined by USFWS to come up with an index of the white-front population for that winter.

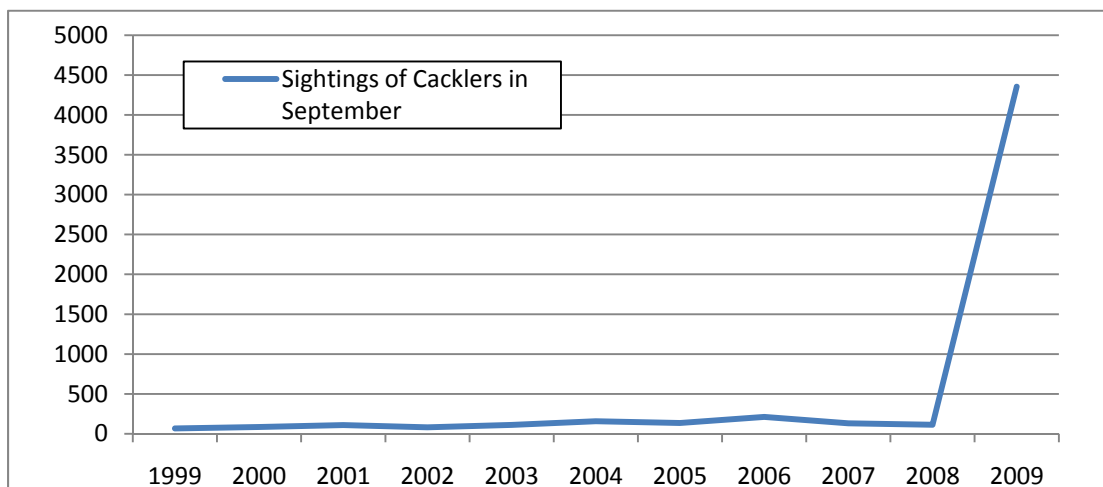


Figure 13: September Sightings of Cacklers in the Willamette Valley, 1999-2010 (Pacific Flyway Council 2010)

4.2 BIRD BANDING DATA

Bird banding data was obtained from the Bird Banding Laboratory in 2009. More than 10,000 band reports for cackling geese between 1985 and 2010 and 1,000 reports for white-fronted geese for 1995 to 2010 were analyzed for this thesis.

Correlation data analyses indicated that there was a direct relationship between temperature and the number of banded cacklers harvested in Oregon (Figure 14). Starting in the 1994-1995 season, the majority of cackler band returns have been from Oregon. Cackler band returns for California decreased at a rapid rate starting in 1994. Band data also showed that the number of bands recovered in Washington increased by 225 percent between 1999 and 2010.

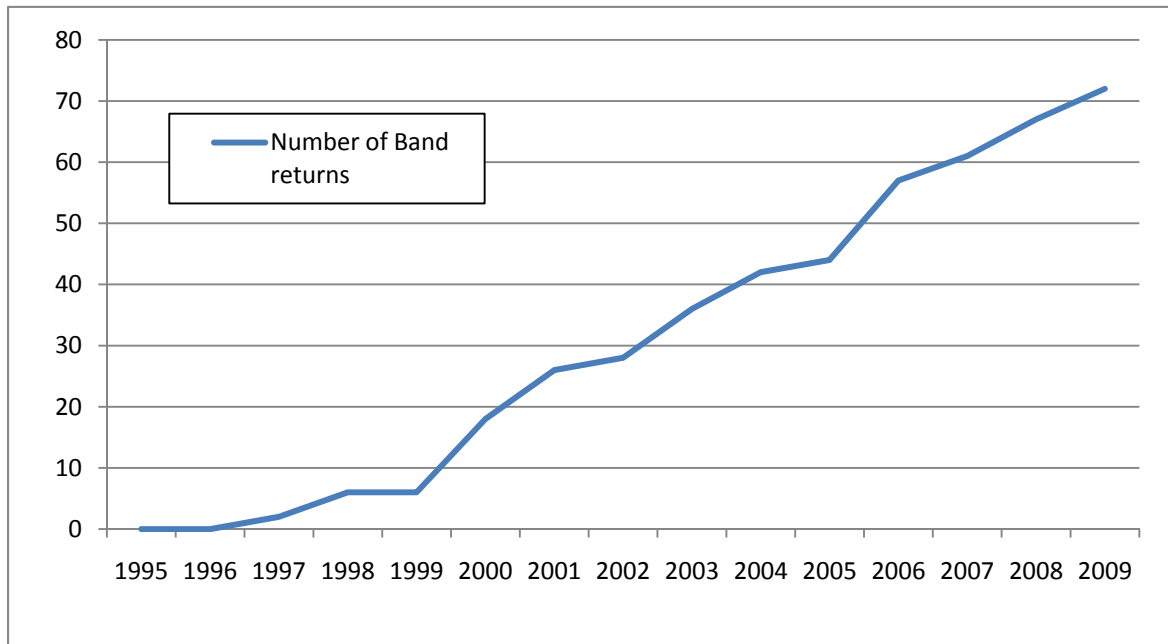


Figure 14: Number of Cackler Band Returns in Washington State, 1995-2009 (Pacific Flyway Council 2009)

In years with warmer than average winter temperatures, more banded cacklers were harvested in the Willamette Valley. In cooler winters, more bands were reported from California. A similar analysis was conducted with data from Oregon and Washington recorded over the past five years. The Pacific Northwest experienced a much more severe winter than usual in 2008-2009. Snow and unusually cold temperatures occurred over a two-week period in December 2008. USFWS data showed that, during this time, California reported the largest count of cacklers since the early 1990s (Pacific Flyway Council 2005).

In contrast to cacklers, very little banding was done with white-fronts in the past. The white-front population had remained relatively stable and there seemed little reason to expend resources in banding studies. Recently, however, there has been an increased effort to band white-fronts due the apparent increase in population. Banding data have revealed that white-fronts banded on the Y-K Delta are harvested in California, Oregon, and Texas. Also, increasing numbers have been taken from Oregon over the 2007 through 2010 hunting seasons.

4.3 HARVEST DATA

Northwest Permit zone harvest data and voluntary wing and part survey data was analyzed for this thesis. Because, by law, all hunters must submit each goose taken to a check station for identification, the data is fairly detailed and accurate. Regional counts are available for each species and subspecies of goose harvested in the Northwest Permit Zone.

In Oregon, eight cacklers were recorded during the 1986 hunting season-- the first year that cacklers were recorded in the State. The numbers of harvested cacklers dramatically increased between the 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 seasons. In 1993-1994, 72 cacklers were recorded while in 1994-1995, 1, 220 cacklers were recorded.

The data seem to indicate that cacklers are continuing to shift their migration northward into Washington and British Columbia. Wing and parts survey data have shown dramatic increases in cackling geese taken in Washington. Increasing numbers of cacklers are being harvested from Olympia northward than have been noted previously (B. Reishus, ODFW, personal communication, 2010). There is even a small wintering population of cacklers near Vancouver, B.C., according to the Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service (CWS 2010). This trend to more northerly wintering areas is expected to continue, according to the 2010 wing and parts report (D. Collins, USFWS, personal communication, 2010).

White-fronted geese have historically been harvested in eastern Oregon in October during their fall migration and again in January and February on their northward migration. In recent years, however, white-fronts have been showing up in the Willamette Valley harvest. Consistent data on white-front harvest in western Oregon were not collected until 1997. In that year, 44 white-fronts were counted in the harvest; in 2008, 172 white-fronts were recorded. It appears that this trend is similar to that exhibited by cacklers in the 1980s just before the huge increases of the 1990s (table 1).

The wing and parts surveys show that there has been a significant increase in white-front harvest in all counties in Oregon with the greatest increase (45 percent) noted in Coos County on the southern Oregon coast. The parts survey coincides directly with the harvest data of the permit zone in that there were large sums of White-fronts harvested in 08/09 and still some but less in 09/10.

4.4 AGRICULTURAL DATA

Since the early 1900s, agriculture in the Willamette Valley has primarily centered on row crops. Between 1970 and 1980, the primary crop shifted to grass seed for lawns. Grass is particularly attractive to geese because of its high nutrient content and because geese can consume great quantities of grass with little expenditure of energy.

The primary grass types grown in the valley include fescue, perennial ryegrass, and annual ryegrass. Geese prefer annual ryegrass, which must be planted annually and, therefore, produces new shoots each year. Geese prefer the fresh shoots because they are very nutritious and easy to graze. Fescue and perennial ryegrass fields are also used by geese for the first few years after they are planted, though the new shoots of these grass varieties are tougher than those of annual rye. Usage of fescue and perennial ryegrass drops off after the second year because, by this time, the roots are more mature and harder for the geese to pull up (Flowers 2010).

By the late 1980s and through the 1990s, the acreages planted to fescue and perennial ryegrass decreased and those planted to annual ryegrass increased due to market prices caused by increased demand in Japan. This shift in crops paralleled the increase in the wintering cackler population in the valley.

In recent years, grass prices have decreased and wheat prices have increased (Figure 15). This has resulted in some farmers changing crops from grass to winter wheat. A decade ago, only 30,000 acres of farm land in the Willamette Valley were planted to wheat; in 2010, about 250,000 acres of wheat will be harvested (Capital Press 2009).

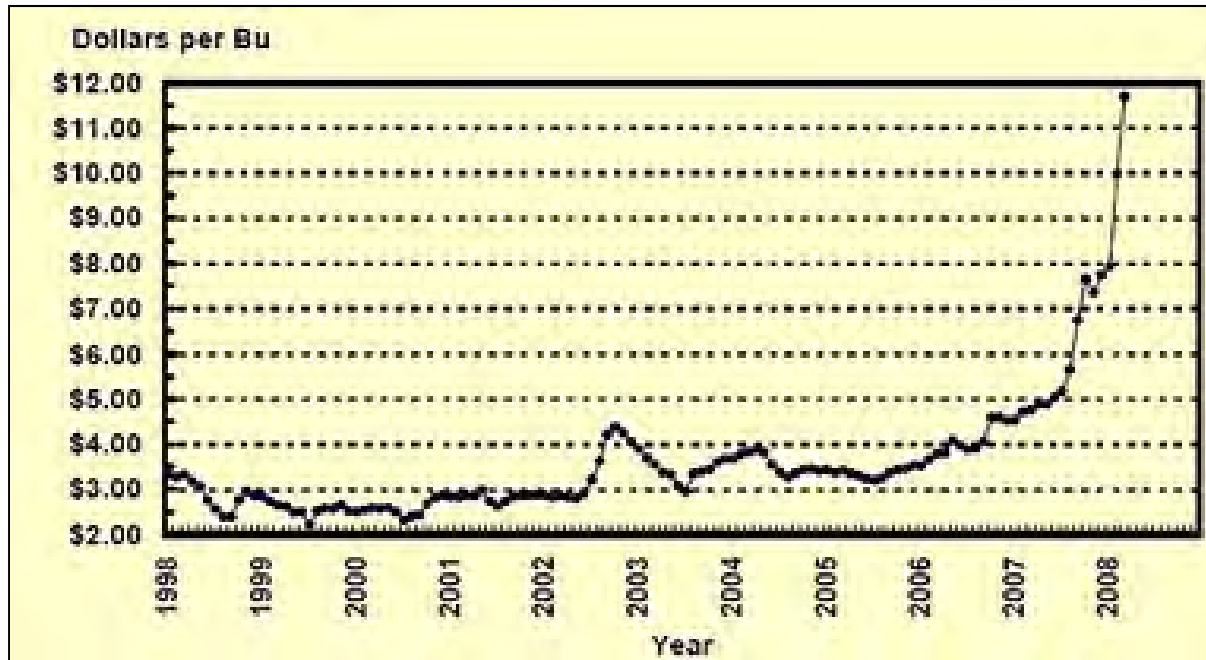


Figure 15: U.S. Wheat Prices, 1998-2009 (ODA 2009)

Winter wheat is also being targeted by geese. The crop is planted in late September and the fresh shoots appear in late October and early November—about the time when geese are arriving from Alaska. Some farmers have reported losing nearly 70 percent of their wheat crop to goose depredation. Each year, nearly a million dollars per 1,000 acres of wheat are lost due to crop damage from geese (ODA 2009). Until the grass seed market improves, it is likely that more farmers will convert to winter wheat, which will, in turn, be targeted by wintering geese, resulting in continued lost revenue. Currently, the price for annual ryegrass is about \$2.25 per bushel and wheat is \$12.00 per bushel. At \$12.00 per bushel, wheat is the most economically beneficial crop for Oregon farmers (ODA 2009).

Agriculture in the Central Valley of California has changed very little in the last 50 years. Major crops in this area include wheat and rice; the acreage planted to these crops has changed less than 10 percent in the last 25 years. The component that has changed the most, however, is the availability of water for goose habitat. Over the past 50 years, nearly 4 million acres of prime agricultural land and waterfowl habitat has been lost to urbanization (USFWS 2010). In addition, California has experienced severe drought over the past 15 years, which also has limited waterfowl habitat, especially for white-fronts.

California's population is expected to continue to grow and another 2 million acres of farm land and habitat are expected to disappear by 2030. Over this same time frame, the white-front population is expected to increase. Diminishing habitat and increased human interference may stimulate the geese to migrate to other, more suitable winter habitats.

4.5 WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA

A comparison of temperature data shows a direct correlation between the northerly migration shifts and warming temperatures. The data show that there was a nearly 1.8°F in California change during the primary years (1991-1997) of the cackler migration change (Table 2). During this same period, the data show that there were no other major weather occurrences that could have had an effect on goose migration patterns. Since cacklers prefer cool temperatures, they may have shifted north to more suitable temperatures (Jarvis 1996). According to a study in 1996, it was found that cacklers were sensitive to warm (>65°F) and very cold conditions. Because of their small bodies they lose heat or get overheated more easily than the larger subspecies of geese (Jarvis 1996).

Table 2: Average Winter Temperatures in Oregon and California, 1986-2010 (NOAA 2010)

Date	Average Winter Temperature		Date	Average Winter Temperature	
	California	Oregon		California	Oregon
1986	63.2	49.1	1999	65.7	50.4
1987	63.7	49.7	2000	65.7	50.3
1988	63.9	49.8	2001	66.1	51
1989	64.4	50.1	2002	66.5	51.3
1990	64.8	50.3	2003	66.8	51.6
1991	64.6	50.4	2004	67.3	52.1
1992	66.1	50.5	2005	66.5	51.4
1993	66.4	51	2006	66.8	51.8
1994	66.8	51.2	2007	66.5	51.5
1995	66.6	51	2008	66.9	51.4
1996	66.3	51.1	2009	67	52
1997	66.4	51.2	2010	67.1	52.1
1998	65.4	51.1			

Weather data shows that for the period between 1993 and 1998, during the cacklers' northward shift, the average winter temperature in the Willamette Valley increased more than 2°F (Table 2). Weather in the Pacific Northwest is greatly affected by alternating conditions called "El Niño" and "La Niña." El Niño years are characterized by the appearance in December or January of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean. This results in warmer, wetter winters in the Willamette Valley. La Niña sequences are characterized by colder than usual ocean water, which results in unusual weather patterns including snow on the valley floor and more unpredictable weather patterns. Both La Niña and El Niño patterns typically last a year, but can last longer. These recurring weather patterns are considered evidence that climate change is occurring (NOAA 2009).

Since 1998, average temperatures have stayed fairly stable, though the storm sequences characterizing La Niña years have caused annual winter average temperatures to drop about 1°F. Snow packs in the Pacific Northwest have also declined on average (Table 3).

Table 3: Three-Month-Average Snowpacks in El Niño vs. La Niña Years
(La Niña =blue and El Niño = red).

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
1975	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.7
1976	-1.6	-1.2	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
1977	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
1978	0.7	0.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
1979	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
1980	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
1981	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
1982	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.3
1983	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.7
1984	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.1
1985	-0.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4
1986	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2
1987	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1
1988	0.7	0.5	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-1.2	-1.3	-1.2	-1.3	-1.6	-1.9	-1.9
1989	-1.7	-1.5	-1.1	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
1990	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
1991	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.6
1992	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.2
1993	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
1994	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.3
1995	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7
1996	-0.7	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4
1997	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5
1998	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4
1999	-1.4	-1.2	-0.9	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.6
2000	-1.6	-1.4	-1.0	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7
2001	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
2002	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.4
2003	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
2004	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
2005	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7
2006	-0.7	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.1
2007	0.8	0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3
2008	-1.4	-1.4	-1.1	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.6
2009	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8
2010	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.3	-0.2						

The average annual winter temperatures in central Washington and British Columbia have also increased (Figure 16) and the snow packs have declined. For example, British Columbia’s snow pack has declined nearly 10 percent over the last 5 years (CWS 2010). This will have dramatic effects on water availability for human use and wildlife. These more extreme weather patterns are causing drought, significant storms, vegetation changes, increased wildfires, decreases in precipitation, increased evaporation, and decreases in snow pack.

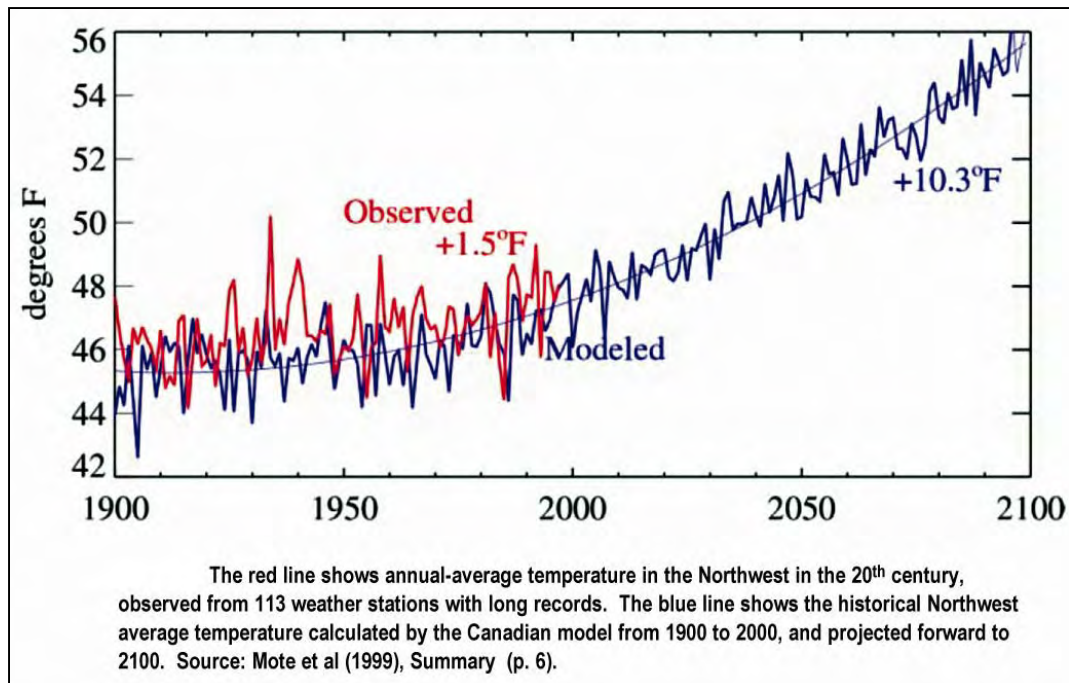


Figure 16: Average Temperatures in the Northwest, Observed and Modeled (Mote et al. 1999)

In the next 50 years, precipitation levels are projected to decrease in the southernmost regions. Conditions in California are already showing evidence of this drying trend. It is likely that continued drying will have effects on goose migrations to and through California.

During the winter storms in 2009 and 2010, cacklers have sought refuge in areas with the least amount of snow pack in Oregon. During the winter of 2008-2009, an unusually snowy winter in western Oregon and Washington, cacklers wintered at Fern Ridge Wildlife area near Eugene Oregon, which had the least amount of snow recorded in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington at the time (Reishus 2010). Nearly 62,000 cacklers were counted on or within a 5-mile radius of the Fern Ridge Wildlife area. Some geese moved south within the valley during the severe weather; but moved back to the north after the weather warmed.

A storm during the winter of 2009-2010 dropped snow in the foothills and in the Willamette Valley. The least amount of snow was on the valley floor. During this event, Baskett Slough Wildlife Refuge near Dallas, Oregon, hosted nearly 65,000 cacklers. Because of the snow, the cacklers were pushed onto Baskett Slough, and other areas that typically contained large numbers of cacklers held very few.

During the last two winter storm periods, Southwest Washington recorded a 20 percent increase in cacklers. Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge near Ridgefield, Washington, produced the highest counts on record for cackling geese in 2007 through 2010 (USFWS 2010).

4.6 INTERPRETATION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Comparison of aerial photographs of the Y-K Delta taken in the 1970s with those taken in recent years reveal that river channels that were previously quite narrow are now up to 3 times wider. This is most likely due to de-stabilization of the permafrost soils. Erosion of thawed soils into river channels was observed several times during the June breeding season survey on the Y-K Delta. The river banks slough off, causing the river channel to widen.

5. CONCLUSIONS

As stated in Section 1, the questions this thesis considers are: 1) why cackling geese and Pacific white-fronted geese are shifting their migratory patterns, 2) how the shifts are affecting the natural ecosystem and human environment, and 3) how changes in migratory patterns will affect goose management.

The data presented in Section 4 clearly show that cacklers have shifted their wintering areas northward and that white-fronts are most likely also in the process of changing their migratory behaviors. Goose population data was compared with weather data as well as with agricultural data. It appeared that the northerly wintering data correlated more closely with weather data over the same time period than with agricultural data. This was determined by analyzing the farming practices at the time of the migration shift. Since the agriculture had little change during the years in which goose migrations experienced the most change, it was concluded that agricultural practices were not a major cause of the northerly shift.

Agriculture may, however, be augmenting the shift and could play a larger part in the continuation of the northerly shift. The type and quantity of available food in California has remained stable in the last 50 years. Recently, however, there has been a shift in the Willamette Valley crops. The primary farmed crop in the Willamette Valley is now winter wheat (Section 4.4). Winter wheat is a preferred food for cacklers and white-fronts according to food behavior studies conducted by OSU (USFWS 2005). With the current favorable market for wheat and the overall long-term increase in temperature, it is likely that the preferred food source for geese will be increasingly available in Oregon and southwest Washington. This will be a large draw for cacklers and other goose species to the Willamette Valley. Geese headed to traditional wintering areas in California may stop in southwest Washington and Oregon if there is ample forage available.

Population data were then compared to weather data. This comparison revealed that, during the cacklers' shift northward, significant climate and weather changes were occurring in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, including increased average temperatures and severe storms. Goose population data and geographic data from several sources were compared with data on increased winter temperatures. The population data—taken from field surveys, band surveys⁸ and wing and parts data—revealed a probable direct correlation between increased winter temperatures and the northerly shift of cackler wintering grounds. However, the same correlation with white-fronts was not obvious because data have been consistently collected over a much shorter period. It is likely, however, that white-front populations will continue to increase in Oregon due to changes on the Alaska breeding grounds as well as in the California wintering grounds.

The two species are very different in their habitat requirements and behavior and tend not to associate much with one another. Cacklers feed in dry, open fields and go to water in the afternoons. White-fronts are highly dependent on water and prefer muddy grazing conditions (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010). Yet even with their differences, each population appears to be abandoning their historical wintering grounds.

⁸ Because banding of white-fronts has not been extensive or consistent, the data for this species was insufficient to conclude on the basis of this type of data alone that climate change is a cause for the birds' shift in wintering areas from California to Oregon.

Climate change is thought to be the cause of habitat changes on the nesting grounds of the Y-K Delta (Section 2.1.2). As the area dries out, nesting habitat for species and subspecies dependent upon water will be reduced and the populations will either adapt, shift to new breeding grounds or be reduced or both. Currently white-fronts, which prefer drier nesting areas, are showing a positive reaction to the decrease of water levels as formerly wet habitat converts to drier uplands.

Subsistence hunters in Alaska and sport hunters in the Pacific Northwest will be affected by changes in the numbers and species comprising wintering populations. The affect may be positive because the goose population in the Y-K Delta appears to be increasing. More birds per square mile will make finding and harvesting them easier.

Increased population numbers for one species or subspecies could mean potential problems for other species or subspecies through alteration of habitat or displacement from traditional habitats. The focal species for goose management in Oregon and southwest Washington is the dusky Canada goose. The dusky Canada goose is a “less successful” subspecies that has been displaced on wintering grounds due to the increase in cacklers (Pacific Flyway 2008). If the current management approach is continued, the revised management plans would favor the dusky. This could affect the overall population levels of cacklers. Management plans must consider all pertinent species; conservation of one species at the expense of another must be avoided. As populations of species and subspecies not previously treated by the area’s management plan continue to increase, a wider perspective must be adopted before the effects of changed migration patterns becomes a problem.

Retention of good quality habitat to accommodate all goose species and subspecies in western Oregon is essential to maintaining a healthy ecosystem with species diversity. The result of decreased natural habitat could be increased depredation of agricultural crops and intrusion of geese into urban settings.

Depredation caused by geese can dramatically affect a farmer’s ability to sustainably farm and make a living. This is especially true with the current economy, which has increased costs to successfully raise crops. Between goose depredation and the economy, farmers struggle to keep their farms in operation. Depredation of agricultural fields can be reduced by planting refuges and other wildlife areas with crops and habitat that are attractive to wintering geese. This will help draw wintering geese away from farms.

As goose populations increase, more geese will be found in urban settings, which will present problems for wildlife managers. Geese cause damage to sports fields and golf courses, contribute to water contamination, and can cause human health risks. Funding for goose control and research into more effective techniques will need to increase.

The agencies must devise strategies to manage increasing numbers and species of geese on wintering grounds as well as the effects of geese on hunting, agriculture, and communities. In order to devise strategies, agency personnel must identify the causes of the shifts.

More research is needed to determine if, in the long term, the cackler population will be negatively impacted by the habitat changes occurring in the Y-K Delta. USFWS theorizes that the Y-K Delta will be substantially drier by 2050. If this occurs, it appears that cacklers will have more difficulty in finding suitable nesting habitat while white-fronts, which are less dependent upon water, will likely thrive. Individual goose populations may rise or fall depending upon the extent of the changes and the species’ abilities to adapt to them (J. Fischer, USFWS, personal communication, 2010). Cacklers and white-fronts as well as other species and subspecies may continue to shift to new breeding and wintering areas. If cackler nesting habitat is reduced, though the northern migratory shift may continue, but the overall population may be smaller, resulting in fewer cacklers in the Willamette Valley.

Another cause of the northerly shift in goose populations could be that water levels in California are receding. Less water limits waterfowl habitat and restricts the birds to certain areas. The increase in the white-front population combined with decreasing habitat in traditional wintering areas is most likely resulting in a shift of this species northward to the Willamette Valley in an effort to find suitable habitat and food. However, without further research, it is difficult to determine whether this population's shift is occurring because of climate change or due to a combination of factors including an increasing goose population and decreased wetlands in California.

The cacklers' current migratory shifts have dramatically affected the dusky Canada goose. As cackler numbers increase, duskies are being pushed out of their primary preferred habitats and, consequently, are moving into areas they have not previously used. In some of these areas, there are no regulations against harvesting duskies (B. Bales, personal communication, 2010). The dusky is a "species of concern" indicating that its population is already stressed, and it is possible that it will not be able to withstand increases in the cackler population and subsequent loss of habitat.

It is likely that other species and subspecies will increase in number with continued mild climate conditions. Indications are that white-fronts are beginning a northerly shift. If projected trends are accurate, there will be an overall increase in geese the next 50 years (J. Fischer, personal communication, 2010). More geese over a wider area will ensure greater hunting opportunities as well as more liberal seasons and bag limits for sport hunters in the Pacific Northwest as well as for subsistence hunters in Alaska.

If the environment continues to warm, habitat type and availability will continue to change, favoring some species over others. The management agencies must be prepared to anticipate and meet these challenges as they arise. This will require a concerted cooperative effort among state and federal agencies in terms of research, data sharing, and formulation of management plans.

Computer models are good tools for formulating management plans. Currently, the primary models deal solely with population and breeding. No models focusing on the effects of climate change on waterfowl behavior currently exist. In fact, the concept of researching the effects of climate change in order to predict migration changes and other effects is quite new. The migration shifts discussed in this document were not evident before 1990. Since that time, waterfowl management has had to adapt quickly to the rapid shifts of goose populations.

Most waterfowl models in existence focus on population size or foraging and breeding behavior rather than migration. Oregon State University is currently conducting a study on goose feeding behavior. The University of Nevada is conducting a hatching study to determine the success of goslings based on hatch date and foraging behavior. The literature reviewed for this thesis did not reveal any studies that included modeling relating climate and migration; nor did any models focus on cacklers or white-fronts.

Climate change has not been recognized as an environmental concern until relatively recently. Therefore, little or no data exist which could support a model focusing on the relationship between increasing temperatures and waterfowl behavior. For example, very few wintering ground surveys have been conducted for geese.

Most agencies to date have focused on breeding ground surveys rather than wintering surveys. However, as population shift becomes more evident, management issues associated with fewer geese in some areas and more in others will rise in priority. Modeling that can predict where the changes are expected to take place and their magnitude will be invaluable to waterfowl managers in the Pacific Flyway. In the future, a migration model based on climate change may play a significant role in management of shifting populations.

Energetics and migration length are factors that may be contributing to waterfowl migration changes. Though these issues were outside the scope of this thesis, they are worth considering in the overall picture of migration pattern change. Many scientists believe that geese may be altering their migration patterns simply because suitable food sources are available closer to the breeding grounds.

Migration is costly from the energy standpoint. The distance from the Y-K Delta to the Willamette Valley is 2,000 miles. Radio telemetry studies have shown that cacklers and white-fronts can fly non-stop to their designated wintering area. During this flight, a goose lose nearly a third of its body weight. Muscles mass and fat are lost and must be replenished immediately upon reaching the wintering grounds or the bird's winter survival is in jeopardy. If geese headed to California can find suitable feed several hundred miles further north, they will conserve energy and avoid potentially detrimental weight loss by stopping in the Willamette Valley or southwest Washington.

5.1 OTHER EXAMPLES OF WATERFOWL MIGRATION CHANGE

The literature reviewed revealed that two other species of goose found in the Pacific Flyway were experiencing northward migrational shifts: Black Brant and Northern Pintails. Both Sedinger and Ward (2010) and Maender (2002) concluded that the cause of the migration shift was increasing temperature. Other documents reviewed described northerly migration shifts, but did not draw clear conclusions as the reasons. All of the studies reviewed appeared to consistent with the findings of this thesis for cacklers and white-fronts.

5.1.1 Black Brant

Pacific black brant have traditionally wintered up and down the Pacific coast from Oregon to Baja, Mexico. Although records are sparse, it appears that fewer than 3,000 brant wintered in Alaska before 1977. Recently, however, at least 40,000 birds, nearly 30 percent of the Pacific black brant population, have begun to winter in Alaska. Sedinger and Ward (2010) state, “[T]his increase in wintering numbers of brant in Alaska coincides with a general warming of temperatures in the North Pacific and Bering Sea. “ Sedinger and Ward (2010) concluded that their “study suggests that the growth in the brant population wintering on the Alaska Peninsula is linked to this same climate change...” USFWS (2010) estimates the total brant population at 138,000 birds. The population typically fluctuates between 110,000 and 165,000 birds and has been in a slow decline for nearly 40 years (Sedinger and Ward 2010). It appears, however, that the decline is not due to hunting pressures, but rather to the availability of food on their Alaskan feeding grounds.

Brant feed extensively on eelgrass. It appears that coastal environmental conditions for eelgrass in Alaska have improved with warming temperatures. Higher temperatures mean less coastal sea ice, making nutrient-rich eelgrass more accessible. “Undisturbed access to sufficient amounts of eelgrass is likely crucial to the winter survival of this species,” according to Sedinger and Ward (2010). It is expected that the number of Pacific brant wintering in Alaska will increase if the climate continues to warm. There is concern, however, that, because the population of Pacific brant is slowly declining, birds wintering in Alaska could be adversely affected by severe cold snaps, which would thin the already dwindling population.

5.1.2 Northern Pintail

Until recently, northern pintails migrated to Mexico, southern California, and California's Central Valley. However, starting in the mid to late 1990s “biologists noticed a significant decrease in the amount of wintering pintails in southern California. In 2002 biologists put satellite radio telemetry devices on 419 female Northern Pintails to attempt to find an explanation” (Maender 2002). By tracking the females and

using historical distribution data, biologists found that pintails are no longer wintering in southern California, but are shifting northward.

In southern California, climate change has increased temperatures causing a decrease in wetlands due to drought (Maender 2002). This has resulted in decreased habitat in the areas that historically provided sanctuary for pintails. Water is evaporating and cover vegetation is dying as the water subsides. The scientists found that neither contaminants nor disease accounted for the disproportionate declines in wintering pintails in the southern Central Valley, but rather, the birds had been “redistributed.” Maender (2010) states that more than 80 percent of the tagged pintails “shifted each midwinter from areas in the south having less abundant habitat for food and refuge, to locales in the Sacramento Valley more favorable for their survival.”

The change each winter in pintail distribution appears to be related to loss of suitable habitat, drought conditions, and the lesser-quality habitat of agricultural lands planted to cotton in the San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley lands do not flood in the winter in contrast to the flooded rice fields of the Sacramento Valley. The environmental shifts are directly related to climate change and its effects on habitat change according to Maender (2002).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Analyses of observations and data have shown definite changes in wintering patterns along the Pacific Flyway. Goose data from various sources were compared to weather and temperature data as well as agricultural data. The comparison appeared to show a correlation relating to a northward shift in wintering. These types of analyses can aid agencies in altering their management programs by identifying migrational shifts and their causes. Agency plans and programs can accommodate changes that have already occurred and prepare for further changes. The following recommendations for management and further study are aimed at more completely understanding the scope and causes of migration shifts and formulating well-founded management plans for geese in the Pacific Flyway.

- Continue research to determine if climate change is causing changes in goose population numbers and behavior.
- Expand breeding ground flight surveys to include cacklers and habitat preference to learn how habitat change on the Y-K Delta is altering cackler behavior and breeding success.
- Expand radio transmitter studies and collar programs for cacklers in Oregon and Washington to verify northerly wintering shifts.
- Expand collar programs for cacklers wintering in the Willamette Valley to determine if the population is continuing to shift northward.
- Expand banding programs for white-fronted geese to gather more data about migration patterns.
- Develop models that will allow researchers and managers to correlate migration behavior with various environmental factors including climate change in order to: 1) determine which factors are causing migration changes in specific waterfowl populations and 2) allow managers to make changes to management plans in advance of rapid changes.
- Inform the public about how it can assist in collar surveys or volunteer for USFWS. This will enable USFWS to have more concrete data and give the public an opportunity gain a greater understanding of geese and goose management.
- Expand research on urban cackling geese to determine the nature and scope of their effect on the human environment and to devise management strategies.
- Research energetics in migrating geese to determine whether the shift in migration patterns has its basis in climate change.
- Increase data exchange and coordination among agencies.
- Formulate and implement plans at the city and county levels to manage growing numbers of geese in urban areas.
- Recognize and anticipate the possibility that goose populations may move into new wintering areas and formulate plans for management of those species.
- Implement low cost techniques, such as more liberal bag limits and seasons, hazing, etc., to assist agricultural landowners in decreasing goose-related crop damage.

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Appendices

YR	MO	DAY	OBS	PLOT	NEST#							
SPECIES			SITE	F	M	NL	NS					
EGG CODES:												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Sink	Sink	Sink	Sink						
			STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4						
			Neutral	Float	Float	Float	Float	Float				
			STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	STAGE 8	STAGE 9					

YR	MO	DAY	OBS	PLOT	NEST#							
SPECIES			SITE	F	M	NL	NS					
EGG CODES:												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Sink	Sink	Sink	Sink					
				STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4					
			Neutral	Float	Float	Float	Float	Float				
			STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	STAGE 8	STAGE 9					

YR	MO	DAY	OBS	PLOT	NEST#							
SPECIES			SITE	F	M	NL	NS					
EGG CODES:												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Sink	Sink	Sink	Sink					
				STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4					
			Neutral	Float	Float	Float	Float	Float				
			STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	STAGE 8	STAGE 9					

YR	MO	DAY	OBS	PLOT	NEST#							
SPECIES			SITE	F	M	NL	NS					
EGG CODES:												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Sink	Sink	Sink	Sink					
				STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4					
			Neutral	Float	Float	Float	Float	Float				
			STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	STAGE 8	STAGE 9					

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> GROUP CODE	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> GENERAL AREA	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> OBSERVER	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> REFUGE
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> STATE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> MONTH DAY YEAR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> TIME	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> LATITUDE LONGITUDE
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> FIELD

CACKLERS

Collar color Char. color Neck band code

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # MARKED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # EXAMINED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> #PRESENT
---	---	---

Totals: (Canada geese only)

- Cackler _____
- Dusky _____
- Tav/Less _____
- Western _____
- Aleutian _____
- Unident. _____
- Total _____
-
- Other geese _____

DUSKYS

Collar color Char. color Neck band code

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # MARKED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # EXAMINED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> #PRESENT
---	---	---

COLORS:

- B = Black
- L = Blue
- N = Brown
- G = Gray
- E = Green
- P = Pink
- R = Red
- W = White
- Y = Yellow

OTHER: _____
(Specify)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # MARKED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # EXAMINED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> #PRESENT
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OTHER: _____
(Specify)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # MARKED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> # EXAMINED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> #PRESENT
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Appendix A3. Band Data Request Form

[NOTE – THIS TABLE IS 2 PAGES]

When requesting a BANDING data pull, here are the fields that can be included	When requesting an ENCOUNTER data pull, here are the fields that can be included
AGE CODE	B AGE CODE
AREA CODE	B AREA CODE
BAND EVENT DATE	B BAND ID
BAND ID	B BAND SIZE CODE
BAND SIZE CODE	B BAND STATUS CODE
BAND STATUS CODE	B BAND TYPE CODE
BAND TYPE CODE	B BIRD STATUS
BANDING DAY	B COMMENTS
BANDING MONTH	B COORD. PRECISION
BANDING YEAR	B DIRECTION CODE
BIRD STATUS	B EXTRA INFO CODE
COMMENTS	B FLYWAY CODE
COORD. PRECISION	B HOW AGED CODE
DIRECTION CODE	B HOW SEXED CODE
EXTRA INFO CODE	B LAT
FLYWAY CODE	B LAT FLOAT
HOW AGED CODE	B LON
HOW SEXED CODE	B LON FLOAT
LAT	B MARKER TYPE
LAT FLOAT	B PERMIT NUMBER
LON	B REMARKS
LON FLOAT	B REWARD BAND NUM
MARKER TYPE	B SEX CODE
OTHER BANDS	B SPECIES ID
PERMIT NUMBER	BANDING DATE
REMARKS	BANDING DAY
REWARD BAND NUM	BANDING MONTH
SEX CODE	BANDING YEAR
SPECIES ID	E AREA CODE
	E CERTIFICATE FLAG
	E CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE
	E COMMENTS
	E COORD. PRECISION
	E COUNTRY CODE
	E CREATE DATE
	E CREATE MONTH
	E CREATE YEAR
	E DIRECTION CODE

When requesting a BANDING data pull, here are the fields that can be included	When requesting an ENCOUNTER data pull, here are the fields that can be included
	E DIRECTION1
	E DIRECTION2
	E ENC COUNTY ORIGINAL
	E FLYWAY CODE
	E HOW OBTAINED CODE
	E HOW OBTAINED DESC
	E LAT
	E LAT FLOAT
	E LOCATION DESCRIPTION
	E LON
	E LON FLOAT
	E MARKER CODE COLOR ID
	E MARKER COLOR ID
	E MARKER DESC
	E MARKER TYPE
	E MARKER TYPE CODE
	E MILES1
	E MILES2
	E PLACE NAME
	E PRESENT CONDITION CODE
	E REMARKS
	E SPECIES NAME
	E STATE CODE
	E WHO OBTAINED CODE
	E WHY REPORTED CODE
	ENCOUNTER DATE
	ENCOUNTER DAY
	ENCOUNTER MONTH
	ENCOUNTER YEAR
	HSS
	OTHER BANDS

Appendix B. Washington Permit Zone Harvest Data

Canada Goose Subspecies

Season	Cackler	Dusky	Taverner	Lesser	Western	Vancouver	Other	Total
1984-85	0	37	63	0	20	0	0	120
1985-86	11	66	113	116	67	0	25	398
1986-87	8	36	172	51	241	0	0	508
1987-88	7	45	478	225	224	4	35	1,018
1988-89	17	43	617	136	763	0	7	1,583
1989-90	37	52	455	92	391	9	0	1,036
1990-91	28	65	555	165	383	20	3	1,219
1991-92	39	88	675	295	483	14	15	1,609
1992-93	84	91	1,340	270	722	25	2	2,534
1993-94	93	90	944	299	697	8	4	2,135
1994-95	422	77	1,011	246	704	31	6	2,497
1995-96	334	59	862	144	536	12	1	1,948
1996-97	1,030	35	1,705	475	932	18	3	4,198
1997-98	1,311	58	2,197	392	742	33	5	4,738
1998-99	1,820	46	1,877	306	833	34	9	4,925
Avg. 94-98	983	55	1,530	313	749	26	5	3,661

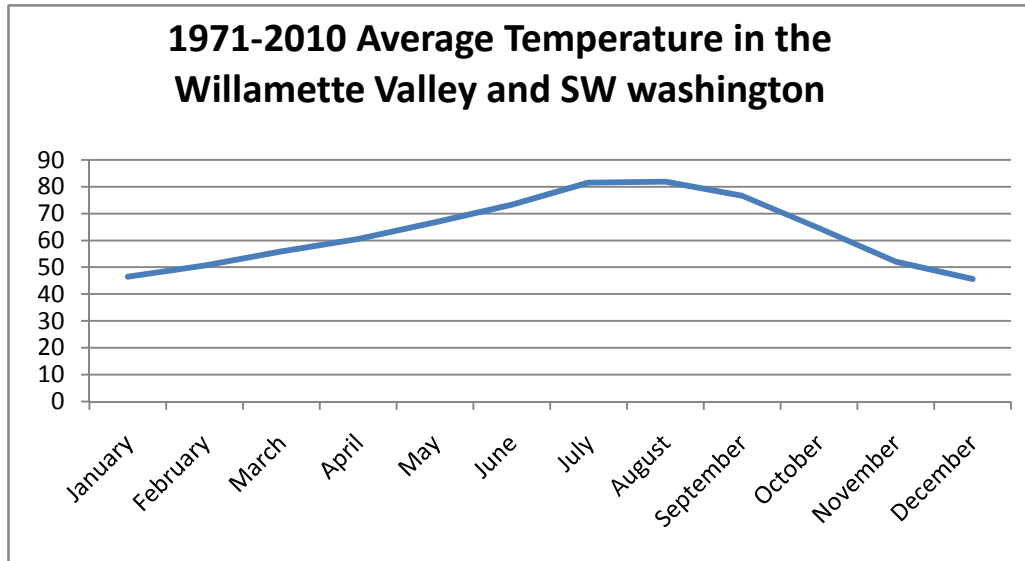
Appendix C1. Average Temperature Data for Willamette Valley by Month 1980-Present

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1997 Jul.	High	71 78 88 90 79 79 80 75 69 70 74 77 83 85 80 83 75 79 88 88 75 80 83 83 81 84 89 87 80 81 81																															
1997 Jul.	Low	53 47 53 57 57 58 49 58 51 52 55 49 52 56 55 55 56 54 51 57 53 51 52 51 52 49 53 55 55 57 51																															
1997 Aug.	High	85 83 87 88 91 91 87 81 91 92 91 96 91 94 76 92 78 75 87 70 82 83 82 77 80 74 77 77 79 80 80																															
1997 Aug.	Low	50 52 54 55 59 62 54 52 54 56 53 55 58 56 53 54 59 56 54 61 61 61 55 55 59 60 56 56 58 57 51 54																															
1997 Sep.	High	80 83 81 80 75 77 82 93 82 74 71 72 65 73 61 64 68 68 76 81 82 81 86 88 79 65 69 74 75 66 —																															
1997 Sep.	Low	61 54 58 57 55 47 46 51 57 60 57 51 49 57 54 56 55 48 46 45 45 49 50 54 54 54 50 46 53 56 —																															
1997 Oct.	High	62 66 63 62 61 60 59 58 54 55 57 58 60 65 69 66 64 57 59 63 60 59 58 54 57 56 58 54 59 62 62																															
1997 Oct.	Low	52 53 54 54 46 44 40 50 47 46 40 49 42 39 44 45 50 46 42 35 34 36 42 35 34 36 41 42 51 53 44																															
1997 Nov.	High	61 57 62 61 63 61 55 47 62 60 55 58 52 58 57 53 55 49 51 54 56 49 56 53 56 54 54 57 50 50 —																															
1997 Nov.	Low	39 36 39 49 51 50 40 37 33 40 41 38 33 37 31 35 43 36 48 46 43 44 47 45 38 34 36 47 41 37 —																															
1997 Dec.	High	49 54 49 50 47 46 45 45 45 51 39 39 37 49 49 54 51 37 47 47 47 34 45 41 38 45 49 52 47 45 50																															
1997 Dec.	Low	33 26 27 34 32 28 32 32 36 32 32 30 29 33 35 46 35 29 30 32 29 26 33 38 35 34 41 37 39 34 37																															
1998 Jan.	High	50 44 43 47 46 47 49 38 38 39 38 45 51 51 52 56 55 53 47 51 48 51 55 50 53 53 55 54 56 57 57																															
1998 Jan.	Low	40 28 34 36 41 43 29 28 27 35 30 26 44 44 39 43 48 44 43 38 37 44 46 45 41 47 43 42 43 37 31																															
1998 Feb.	High	53 55 53 56 56 67 52 50 50 49 52 54 55 53 53 51 56 57 51 48 48 50 52 50 49 50 49 54 — — —																															
1998 Feb.	Low	34 36 43 38 40 46 33 40 35 39 44 43 41 42 42 32 40 44 44 44 41 33 31 29 36 31 29 43 — — —																															
1998 Mar.	High	53 51 47 50 54 52 51 51 53 51 68 59 63 65 57 57 56 63 66 68 55 61 60 60 59 52 46 50 58 50 52																															
1998 Mar.	Low	47 39 36 32 28 27 26 41 38 33 47 48 49 44 48 36 31 35 33 39 43 51 44 47 40 39 34 31 30 36 40																															
1998 Apr.	High	54 56 48 55 56 58 51 57 58 56 55 54 55 55 58 59 63 59 59 71 71 70 57 58 57 67 74 79 83 82 —																															
1998 Apr.	Low	40 43 43 41 36 41 34 33 42 41 37 39 35 37 38 32 33 45 36 35 38 48 46 38 37 36 42 44 50 51 —																															
1998 May.	High	84 68 70 69 69 71 67 54 52 55 57 51 53 57 56 50 61 66 62 55 60 60 65 60 58 60 65 76 60 65 78																															
1998 May.	Low	52 51 52 54 52 52 50 45 43 48 47 46 47 45 42 45 42 42 49 48 44 44 52 45 42 38 40 42 52 51 47																															
1998 Jun.	High	74 68 74 64 72 80 76 73 77 65 70 75 71 73 67 68 75 62 71 80 83 71 73 68 64 68 75 83 82 67 —																															
1998 Jun.	Low	49 48 46 54 51 51 50 50 51 53 52 52 51 49 51 50 45 44 51 49 52 50 53 53 52 52 47 50 50 52 —																															
1998 Jul.	High	67 74 66 70 77 85 78 82 85 75 77 77 80 84 86 95 91 84 79 85 91 94 87 84 86 100 101 99 82 79 73																															
1998 Jul.	Low	55 56 56 57 58 56 59 53 56 55 49 54 54 55 53 57 54 55 58 53 54 57 56 57 56 62 65 60 56 57 60																															
1998 Aug.	High	78 90 93 94 86 81 80 86 84 86 90 93 96 91 74 75 76 75 81 81 76 80 71 78 80 77 87 92 88 88 96																															
1998 Aug.	Low	57 52 53 61 59 57 49 53 51 50 61 58 60 60 60 57 50 50 49 51 55 52 56 48 47 51 54 54 50 56 54																															
1998 Sep.	High	96 92 93 89 86 88 86 71 72 76 84 86 83 85 88 81 77 69 69 69 80 75 80 67 65 73 82 77 68 77 —																															
1998 Sep.	Low	58 56 58 56 50 44 53 53 44 43 50 52 49 56 52 48 49 57 51 47 48 48 47 44 45 44 49 46 45 42 —																															
1998 Oct.	High	63 58 61 66 69 74 76 64 55 61 62 60 64 62 59 55 59 60 69 75 75 73 51 63 63 64 59 57 43 49 51																															
1998 Oct.	Low	51 50 50 46 41 43 48 52 46 43 42 52 49 45 41 36 38 41 37 38 38 40 40 46 46 42 45 36 34 35 35																															
1998 Nov.	High	57 59 54 59 55 52 46 50 53 49 48 53 56 58 61 48 57 55 51 56 56 49 55 51 64 52 52 44 48 47 —																															
1998 Nov.	Low	49 43 44 48 44 41 40 35 33 43 44 42 50 45 47 42 40 40 39 50 43 42 40 43 50 44 35 32 39 40 —																															
1998 Dec.	High	50 51 45 45 41 42 45 45 46 48 52 61 56 49 49 46 46 41 35 25 22 30 26 43 52 47 52 55 58 53																															
1998 Dec.	Low	44 38 34 33 35 34 40 32 28 38 48 50 43 32 32 28 33 28 23 14 12 15 12 26 42 39 43 49 51 51 39																															
1999 Jan.	High	47 45 50 45 40 46 50 39 49 57 48 49 49 52 52 48 54 50 51 48 50 45 46 40 37 42 44 48 56 46 49																															
1999 Jan.	Low	31 30 26 26 27 30 32 31 34 32 31 37 38 47 43 40 42 46 44 44 44 36 37 28 30 32 35 43 43 40 37																															
1999 Feb.	High	49 50 49 48 46 50 46 41 43 43 47 54 50 50 54 48 50 49 52 52 47 50 53 53 46 49 55 56 — — —																															
1999 Feb.	Low	37 35 34 34 32 44 36 34 33 33 33 33 39 31 34 43 39 40 31 27 40 44 46 44 37 35 44 40 — — —																															
1999 Mar.	High	49 48 46 46 45 50 50 51 48 54 57 50 58 50 52 52 54 57 69 59 61 61 62 53 52 49 50 47 48 46 50																															
1999 Mar.	Low	35 34 36 34 33 27 31 38 33 33 27 43 44 42 36 31 38 45 36 45 44 42 36 43 42 38 34 36 38 36 34																															

Appendix C2.

Average Temperature in the Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington 1971-2010

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971-2010	46.5	50.7	55.9	60.6	66.8	73.3	81.5	81.9	76.6	64.6	52.1	45.7



Appendix C3. Top 5 Warmest and Coldest Months, Years and Seasons Portland AIRPORT (Oct 1940 through May 2009)

	Average MAX		Average MIN			Average MEAN	
	warmest	coldest	warmest	coldest		warmest	coldest
January	52.0 1953	32.8 1950	42.6 1953	21.0	1949	47.3 1953	27.0 1950
	51.2 1981	34.6 1949	40.8 2006	21.2	1950	45.5 2006	27.8 1949
	50.7 2003	35.4 1979	38.8 2003	25.9	1957	44.7 2003	30.7 1979
	50.5 1992	36.4 1969	38.8 1994	26.0	1979	44.4 1994	31.2 1957
	50.4 1983	36.5 1957	38.5 1995	26.3	1943	44.4 1992	31.9 1969
	<i>Climatic Normal 45.6</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 34.2</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 39.5</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
February	57.8 1968	40.9 1956	42.6 1958	28.5	1989	48.8 1991	35.8 1956
	57.7 1991	43.5 1989	41.6 1961	30.6	1964	48.6 1958	36.0 1989
	56.2 1992	45.2 1949	41.2 1983	30.8	1956	48.2 1968	38.8 1950
	55.3 1963	45.5 1950	40.4 1998	32.1	1950	48.1 1992	39.1 1949
	55.1 1941	46.9 1969	40.2 1963	32.4	1969	47.8 1963	39.7 1969
	<i>Climatic Normal 50.3</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 35.9</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 43.2</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
March	63.7 1992	49.2 1955	43.7 1983	33.6	1954	52.3 1992	41.5 1955
	63.5 1941	49.4 1951	43.1 1984	33.8	1955	52.0 1941	41.9 1951
	60.9 1994	51.5 1950	42.5 2007	34.1	1969	51.2 2004	43.7 1971
	60.5 1986	51.8 1956	42.1 2003	34.5	1951	51.2 1986	43.8 1964
	60.5 1979	51.9 1967	42.0 2004	35.4	1971	51.1 1984	43.8 1954
	<i>Climatic Normal 55.7</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 38.6</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 47.4</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
April	67.3 2004	55.0 1955	46.5 1992	37.4	1964	56.3 2004	46.5 1955
	66.8 1989	55.9 1963	45.3 2004	37.6	1967	56.0 1989	46.7 1964
	66.0 1951	56.0 1964	45.2 1996	37.9	1955	55.4 1992	46.9 1967
	65.8 1941	56.2 1967	45.2 1993	38.0	1975	54.5 1990	47.3 1975
	65.3 1977	56.5 1948	45.2 1989	38.2	1968	54.5 1941	48.0 1972
	<i>Climatic Normal 60.5</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 41.9</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 51.9</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
May	76.6 1992	61.1 1962	51.8 2005	41.9	1964	63.1 1992	52.6 1964
	73.4 1958	62.3 1991	51.7 2004	42.8	1955	62.2 1997	52.9 1955
	73.3 1947	62.3 1977	51.7 1997	43.2	1950	61.8 1958	53.8 1977
	72.6 1997	62.4 1960	50.9 1993	44.0	1965	61.3 1947	53.9 1962
	71.6 1995	62.7 1998	50.4 1983	44.3	1966	61.1 1993	53.9 1960
	<i>Climatic Normal 66.7</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 47.5</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 57.8</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
June	79.5 1992	66.2 1954	57.1 1948	49.0	1964	67.4 1992	57.9 1954
	79.3 1987	66.4 1953	56.9 1969	49.7	1965	66.5 1987	58.6 1953
	77.9 1970	67.6 1956	56.8 1958	49.7	1954	66.5 1969	58.7 1964
	77.5 1967	68.3 1991	56.4 2006	49.9	1976	66.5 1948	59.0 1956
	77.4 1986	68.4 1964	55.2 2004	50.4	1956	66.3 2006	59.9 1991
	<i>Climatic Normal 72.7</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 52.6</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 63.2</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
July	87.5 1985	72.0 1963	61.2 1998	53.1	1964	74.1 1985	63.0 1963
	84.7 2003	72.2 1955	60.7 1985	53.5	1954	72.0 1996	63.0 1954
	84.7 1996	72.6 1954	59.9 2007	53.8	1962	71.6 2003	63.4 1955
	84.6 1994	72.8 1993	59.6 2004	54.1	1963	71.5 2004	64.3 1993
	84.5 1941	75.0 1989	59.5 2006	54.4	1953	71.4 1941	64.5 1964
	<i>Climatic Normal 79.3</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 56.9</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 68.2</i>	

	Average MAX		Average MIN			Average MEAN	
	warmest	coldest	warmest	coldest		warmest	coldest
August	88.1 1967	71.6 1954	60.7 2004	52.2	1964	72.9 1967	63.3 1954
	86.2 1986	74.2 1948	60.4 1997	53.4	1951	72.3 1986	63.7 1964
	85.5 1981	74.3 1976	59.6 1990	53.7	1969	72.1 1981	64.5 1957
	85.0 1972	75.2 1964	59.6 1971	53.7	1955	71.7 1977	65.3 1975
	84.1 1977	75.2 1957	59.5 1999	53.8	1959	71.7 1972	65.4 1960
	<i>Climatic Normal 79.7</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 57.3</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 68.5</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Sept.	81.9 1974	68.8 1941	56.6 1995	46.5	1964	67.6 1994	58.4 1964
	81.4 1991	69.0 1978	56.0 1997	47.9	1965	67.4 1991	59.5 1961
	80.1 1993	69.3 1959	56.0 1990	47.9	1961	67.3 1974	60.2 1954
	80.0 1967	69.7 1977	55.8 1994	48.9	1955	67.1 1995	60.3 1959
	79.7 1989	69.9 1954	55.2 1979	49.3	1950	67.0 1990	60.4 1965
	<i>Climatic Normal 74.6</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 52.5</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 63.6</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
October	71.9 1987	57.6 1949	50.4 2003	39.5	1949	58.6 1952	48.5 1949
	71.8 1952	58.7 1950	49.9 2005	41.9	1972	58.5 1944	50.6 1946
	67.9 1944	58.8 1946	49.8 1988	41.9	1964	58.3 1988	51.7 1956
	67.8 1974	59.0 1956	49.5 1979	42.3	1970	58.2 2003	52.0 1968
	67.7 1993	59.8 1984	49.1 1944	42.5	1978	58.2 1987	52.4 1971
	<i>Climatic Normal 63.3</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 45.2</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 54.3</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
November	58.4 1949	42.9 1985	46.2 1995	31.2	1978	51.7 1995	37.2 1985
	57.1 1995	46.9 1978	44.7 1983	31.6	1985	50.1 1999	39.1 1978
	56.4 1981	46.9 1955	44.4 1998	31.8	1952	49.9 1949	40.7 1952
	56.1 1976	47.6 1964	44.2 1999	33.8	1993	49.8 1997	41.0 1964
	56.0 1999	48.3 1994	43.7 1997	34.4	1964	49.7 1965	41.4 1955
	<i>Climatic Normal 51.8</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 39.8</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 45.8</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
December	51.4 1950	39.2 1985	41.4 1950	26.8	1985	46.4 1950	33.0 1985
	50.2 1980	40.0 1990	39.7 1973	28.9	1978	44.7 1973	34.7 1990
	49.9 1979	40.2 1983	39.5 1966	29.4	1990	44.4 1979	35.2 1978
	49.6 1974	41.6 1978	38.9 1979	31.4	1964	44.2 1966	36.3 1983
	49.6 1973	42.2 1968	38.7 1999	31.7	1972	44.1 1974	37.0 1964
	<i>Climatic Normal 45.4</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 35.0</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 40.2</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Annual	65.8 1992	58.7 1955	47.4 2004	40.8	1964	56.2 1992	50.1 1964
	65.2 1987	59.4 1964	47.4 1998	42.3	1955	55.7 2004	50.5 1955
	64.7 1958	60.0 1954	47.0 2003	42.7	1949	55.7 1995	51.6 1950
	64.6 1994	60.2 1956	46.9 1995	43.0	1950	55.6 2003	51.7 1956
	64.5 1995	60.2 1948	46.8 1983	43.1	1985	55.3 1998	51.7 1954
	<i>Climatic Normal 62.1</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 44.8</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 53.5</i>	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Water Year Oct 1 to Sept 30	66.4 1991-2	59.7 1954-5	47.5 2003-4	41.5	1963-4	56.6 1991-2	50.7 1963-4
	65.0 1993-4	59.8 1963-4	47.4 1997-8	42.0	1949-0	55.7 2003-4	51.1 1949-0
	64.8 1986-7	60.0 1955-6	46.7 1991-2	42.6	1964-5	55.5 2002-3	51.3 1954-5
	64.4 2002-3	60.2 1949-0	46.6 2002-3	42.6	1948-9	55.3 1997-8	51.4 1948-9
	64.4 1980-1	60.3 1953-4	46.6 1982-3	42.8	1954-5	55.3 1993-4	51.7 1955-6
	<i>Climatic Normal 62.1</i>		<i>Climatic Normal 44.8</i>			<i>Climatic Normal 53.5</i>	

Top 5 Warmest and Coldest Seasons and Averages Portland AIRPORT (Oct 1940 through May 2009)

	Average MAX		Average MIN			Average MEAN	
	warmest	coldest	warmest	coldest		warmest	coldest
Winter Season (Dec 22- Mar 21)	54.8 1991-2	42.8 1949-0	39.5 1982-3	29.9	1948-9	47.0 1991-2	36.3 1948-9
	53.8 1980-1	42.8 1948-9	39.2 1997-8	30.1	1968-9	45.9 1982-3	36.8 1949-0
	53.4 1940-1	44.1 1968-9	39.2 1991-2	30.7	1949-0	45.7 1980-1	37.1 1968-9
	53.0 2004-5	44.8 1956-7	39.0 2002-3	31.8	1956-7	45.4 1994-5	38.3 1956-7
	52.4 1982-3	45.0 1955-6	38.7 1952-3	31.8	1942-3	45.3 1940-1	39.1 1978-9
	average 49.1		average 35.6			average 42.3	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Deep Winter (Dec 1- Feb 14)	50.3 2002-3	38.8 1948-9	39.5 1952-3	27.7	1948-9	44.8 1952-3	33.2 1948-9
	50.3 1991-2	39.4 1949-0	38.8 1957-8	28.4	1949-0	44.5 1957-8	33.9 1949-0
	50.3 1957-8	40.1 1968-9	38.3 1950-1	29.1	1978-9	44.1 2002-3	34.7 1978-9
	50.1 1952-3	40.3 1978-9	38.2 1966-7	30.6	1968-9	44.1 1991-2	35.3 1968-9
	49.8 1980-1	42.4 1956-7	38.1 2005-6	30.8	1956-7	43.8 1966-7	36.6 1956-7
	average 46.3		average 34.8			average 40.6	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Spring Season (Mar 22- June 21)	71.5 1992	61.0 1964	49.3 2004	41.5	1964	60.1 1992	51.2 1964
	68.9 2004	61.3 1955	48.7 1992	42.4	1955	59.1 2004	51.9 1955
	68.9 1987	61.7 1953	48.3 2005	43.4	1954	58.0 1994	53.0 1953
	68.9 1969	62.2 2008	48.3 1993	43.4	1950	57.8 1987	53.1 1954
	68.3 1994	62.3 1991	48.2 2006	43.8	1966	57.7 1958	53.1 1950
	average 65.3		average 45.9			average 55.6	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Summer Season (June 22- Sept 21)	83.6 1967	71.2 1954	58.8 1998	50.8	1964	69.8 1990	62.3 1954
	81.8 1994	73.5 1955	58.6 2004	53.2	1955	69.8 1967	62.5 1964
	81.6 1972	73.8 1963	58.2 1997	53.3	1957	69.7 1998	63.4 1955
	81.5 2005	74.3 1964	58.2 1990	53.3	1954	69.4 2003	64.1 1963
	81.4 1990	75.2 1983	57.5 1995	53.6	1951	69.3 1994	64.9 1957
	average 78.4		average 55.6			average 67.0	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Deep Summer (July 1 - Aug 31)	85.4 1967	72.1 1954	60.2 1998	52.6	1964	71.7 1985	63.2 1954
	84.5 1972	74.3 1963	60.1 2004	54.1	1957	71.5 2004	64.1 1964
	84.2 1985	74.7 1955	59.4 1997	54.2	1955	71.3 1972	64.4 1955
	83.5 1996	75.2 1989	59.1 1985	54.2	1954	71.2 1996	64.6 1963
	83.4 1994	75.5 1948	59.0 1990	54.4	1969	71.1 1967	65.0 1957
	average 79.8		average 56.8			average 68.3	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Autumn Season (Sept 22- Dec 21)	61.3 1987	51.9 1985	45.0 1995	36.5	1985	52.0 1974	44.2 1985
	61.3 1974	53.4 1955	44.5 2003	37.1	1964	51.9 1995	45.6 1964
	59.5 1952	54.0 1984	44.4 1988	37.4	1978	51.8 1999	46.5 1978
	59.4 1991	54.0 1948	44.3 1947	38.4	1961	51.8 1987	46.6 1955
	59.4 1965	54.1 1964	44.1 2004	38.5	1972	51.7 2003	46.1 1961
	average 56.9		average 41.7			average 49.3	
Portland Int'l Airport Data							
Early Autumn (Sept 1 - Oct 31)	75.3 1952	65.4 1956	52.7 2003	44.2	1964	62.4 2003	55.7 1949
	75.1 1987	65.5 1946	52.3 1979	45.3	1949	62.1 1979	55.8 1964
	74.8 1974	65.6 1941	51.4 2004	45.6	1972	61.8 1987	56.2 1956
	74.0 1991	66.0 1985	51.3 1997	45.7	1970	61.8 1944	56.2 1946
	73.8 1993	66.0 1968	51.1 1995	45.9	1961	61.7 1952	56.3 1961
	average 69.1		average 48.6			average 58.9	

Portland Airport, Oregon

NORMALS, MEANS, AND EXTREMES

LATITUDE: 45 Deg. 36 Min. N LONGITUDE: 122 Deg. 36 Min. W ELEVATION: FT. GRND 21 BARO 27 TIME ZONE: PACIFIC WBAN: 24229

	(a)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
TEMPERATURE (Deg. F)														
Normals														
-Daily Maximum		45.4	51.0	56.0	60.6	67.1	74.0	79.9	80.3	74.6	64.0	52.6	45.6	62.6
-Daily Minimum		33.7	36.1	38.6	41.3	47.0	52.9	56.5	56.9	52.0	44.9	39.5	34.8	44.5
-Monthly		39.6	43.6	47.3	51.0	57.1	63.5	68.2	68.6	63.3	54.5	46.1	40.2	53.6
Extremes														
-Record Highest	55	63	71	80	87	100	100	107	107	105	92	73	65	107
-Year		1986	1988	1947	1957	1983	1992	1965	1981	1988	1987	1975	1993	AUG 1981
-Record Lowest	55	-2	-3	19	29	29	39	43	44	34	26	13	6	-3
-Year		1950	1950	1989	1955	1954	1966	1955	1980	1965	1971	1985	1964	FEB 1950
NORMAL DEGREE DAYS														
Heating (base 65 Deg. F)		787	599	549	420	249	91	28	35	102	326	567	769	4522
Cooling (base 65 Deg. F)		0	0	0	0	0	46	127	147	51	0	0	0	371
% OF POSSIBLE SUNSHINE	46	29	38	48	52	57	56	69	66	62	44	28	23	48
MEAN SKY COVER(tenths)														
Sunrise - Sunset	47	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.2	6.7	4.8	5.1	5.5	7.1	8.2	8.7	7.1
MEAN NUMBER OF DAYS:														
Sunrise to Sunset														
-Clear	47	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.5	5.0	6.2	12.6	11.4	10.3	5.4	2.8	2.1	68.4
-Partly Cloudy	47	3.6	3.8	4.9	5.8	7.2	7.7	8.5	9.6	8.1	7.6	4.3	3.3	74.5
-Cloudy	47	24.4	21.5	22.8	20.7	18.9	16.1	9.9	10.1	11.6	18.0	22.9	25.5	222.4
Precipitation														
.01 inches or more	55	18.0	15.6	16.9	14.4	11.8	9.2	3.9	4.9	7.5	12.3	18.0	18.7	150.9
Snow, Ice Pellets, Hail														
1.0 inches or more	55	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.1

Appendix C4

Thunderstorms	55	0.*	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	7.1
Heavy Fog Visibility 1/4 mile or less	53	4.3	3.7	2.4	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.6	7.1	6.0	4.8	32.6
Temperature Deg. F -Maximum														
90 Deg. F and above	55	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.2	3.6	3.7	1.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	10.8
32 Deg. F and below -Minimum	55	2.1	0.3	0.*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	3.5
32 Deg. F and below	55	13.0	8.1	4.6	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	5.1	9.6	42.1
0 Deg. F and below	55	0.*	0.*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	*
AV. STATION PRES. (mb)	23	1018.1	1016.6	1015.2	1016.7	1016.2	1016.1	1016.2	1015.2	1015.5	1017.2	1017.2	1018.4	1016.5
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)														
Hour 04	55	85	86	86	86	85	84	82	94	87	90	88	87	86
Hour 10 (Local Time)	55	82	80	73	69	66	65	62	64	67	78	82	83	73
Hour 16	55	75	67	60	55	53	49	45	45	48	62	74	78	59
Hour 22	55	83	81	78	75	73	71	68	70	75	94	84	85	77
PRECIPITATION (in.)														
Water Equivalent														
-Normal		5.35	3.85	3.56	2.39	2.06	1.48	0.63	1.09	1.75	2.7	5.34	6.13	36.30
-Maximum Monthly	55	12.83	9.46	7.52	5.26	4.57	4.06	2.68	4.53	4.30	8.41	11.57	11.12	12.83
-Year		1953	1949	1957	1993	1945	1984	1.83	1968	1986	1994	1942	1968	JAN 1953
-Minimum Monthly	55	0.06	0.72	1.10	0.53	0.10	0.03	0.00	T	T	0.19	0.77	1.38	0.00
-Year		1985	1993	1965	1956	1992	1951	1967	1970	1993	1988	1976	1976	JUL 1967
-Maximum in 24 hrs	55	2.61	2.46	1.83	1.47	1.47	1.82	1.09	1.54	2.38	4.44	2.82	2.59	4.44
-Year		1974	1994	1943	1962	1968	1958	1978	1977	1982	1994	1995	1977	OCT 1994
Snow, Ice Pellets, Hail														
-Maximum Monthly	55	41.4	13.2	12.9	T	0.6	T	0.0	T	T	0.2	8.2	15.7	41.4
-Year		1950	194	1951	1995	1953	1995		1989	1949	19.0	1955	1968	JAN 1950
-Maximum in 24 hrs	55	10.6	6.4	7.7	T	0.5	T	0.0	T	T	0.2	7.4	8.0	10.6
-Year		1950	1993	1951	1995	1953	1995		1989	1949	1950	1977	1964	JAN 1950
WIND														
Mean Speed (mph)	47	10.0	9.2	8.3	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.5	6.5	8.6	9.6	7.9

Appendix C4

Prevailing Direction through 1964		ESE	ESE	ESE	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	ESE	ESE	ESE	ESE
Fastest Mile														
-Direction(!)	41	S	SW	S	S	SW	SW	SW	SW	S	S	SW	S	S
-Speed(mph)	41	54	61	57	60	42	40	33	29	61	88	56	57	88
-Year		1951	1958	1963	1957	1960	1958	1983	1961	1963	1962	1961	1951	OCT 1962
Peak Gust														
-Direction(!)	12	SW	SE	S	SW	W	SW	NW	SW	E	S	SW	17	17
-Speed(mph)	12	63	61	59	45	46	40	32	31	44	52	52	71	71
-Date		1990	1989	1995	1992	1993	1994	1992	1995	1995	1994	1984	1995	DEC 1995

(a) - Length of Record in Years, although individual months may be missing.

0.* or * - The value is between 0.0 and 0.05.

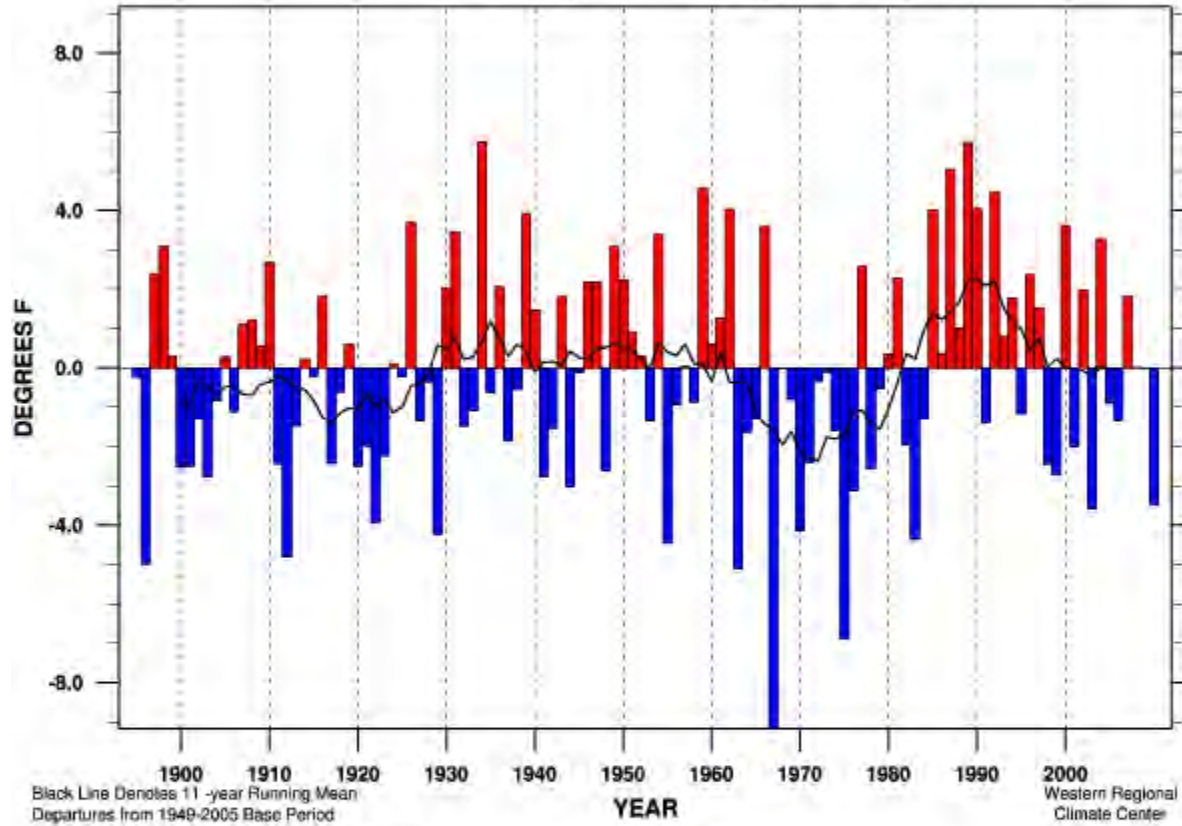
Normals - Based on the 1961 - 1990 record period.

Extremes - Dates are the most recent occurrence.

Wind Dir.- Numerals show tens of degrees clockwise from true north. "00" indicates calm.

Resultant Directions are given to whole degrees.

California Statewide Mean Temperature Departure April



Linear Trend 1895-present:	+ 0.70 ± 1.48 °F/100yr	
Linear Trend 1949-present:	+ 0.74 ± 4.27 °F/100yr	
Linear Trend 1975-present:	+ 1.87 ± 9.66 °F/100yr	
Warmest Year	58.4 °F (+ 5.7 °F) in 1934	MEAN 52.7 °F
Coldest Year	43.5 °F (- 9.2 °F) in 1967	STDEV 3.05 °F
April	2010 49.2 °F (- 3.5 °F)	RANK 12 of 116

Appendix C6.

Thunderstorms	9	0.6	0.8	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.4	13.3
Heavy Fog Visibility 1/4 mile or less	9	5.1	1.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.6	5.6	15.0
Temperature Deg. F -Maximum														
90 Deg. F and above	9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	6.2	16.2	27.6	25.4	18.6	6.7	0.0	0.0	101.9
32 Deg. F and below -Minimum	9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
32 Deg. F and below	9	11.8	6.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	13.9	37.0
0 Deg. F and below	9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
AV. STATION PRES. (mb)	9	1002.3	1000.7	998.7	998.0	995.6	994.5	994.1	994.0	995.1	997.7	1002.2	1002.5	997.9
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)														
Hour 04	9	84	81	80	77	73	64	58	59	61	68	79	83	72
Hour 10 (Local Time)	9	76	66	62	51	44	37	32	32	34	42	61	75	51
Hour 16	9	58	46	48	38	33	25	19	18	22	30	45	58	37
Hour 22	9	79	72	71	64	58	48	40	40	45	56	73	78	60
PRECIPITATION (in.)														
Water Equivalent														
-Normal		6.06	4.45	4.38	2.08	1.27	0.56	0.17	0.46	0.91	2.24	5.21	5.51	33.30
-Maximum Monthly	9	22.93	10.15	14.7	4.26	6.72	1.93	0.49	1.06	4.83	6.26	10.11	10.81	22.93
-Year		1995	1992	1995	1995	1993	1995	1990	1990	1989	1992	1988	1995	JAN 1995
-Minimum Monthly	9	0.89	0.14	0.52	0.14	0.01	T	0.00	0.00	0.00	T	0.26	0.00	0.00
-Year		1991	1988	1988	1987	1987	1987	1990	1987	1988	1995	1995	1989	JUL 1990
-Maximum in 24 hrs	9	3.96	2.14	3.18	2.33	3.79	1.24	0.49	0.83	3.15	4.09	3.23	2.99	4.09
-Year		1990	1992	1995	1993	1993	1988	1990	1993	1989	1992	1988	1995	OCT 1992
Snow, Ice Pellets, Hail														
-Maximum Monthly	9	3.2	1.4	1.8	T	1.5	T	0.0	T	0.0	0.0	T	17.0	17.0
-Year		1989	1990	1987	1995	1990	1992		1993			1988	1988	DEC 1988
-Maximum in 24 hrs	9	2.0	1.4	1.8	T	1.5	T	0.0	T	0.0	0.0	T	10.0	10.0
-Year		1989	1990	1987	1995	1990	1992		1993			1988	1988	DEC 1988
WIND														
Mean Speed (mph)	9	6.7	6.7	8.1	7.4	7.7	8.1	7.4	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.6	7.0

Appendix C6.

Prevailing Direction through 1964														
Fastest Mile														
-Direction(!)	6	18	17	17	17	17	02	36	23	35	19	18	17	17
-Speed(mph)		56	46	53	36	29	38	23	23	29	37	35	60	60
-Year		1995	1993	1995	1993	1990	1992	1995	1990	1993	1992	1994	1995	DEC 1995
Peak Gust														
-Direction(!)	9	S	S	S	S	S	N	N	S		S	S	S	S
-Speed(mph)	9	70	64	74	47	54	60	36	46	44	66	58	85	85
-Date		1995	1993	1995	1995	1988	1992	1995	1987	1986	1989	1988	1995	DEC 1995

(a) - Length of Record in Years, although individual months may be missing.

0.* or * - The value is between 0.0 and 0.05.

Normals - Based on the 1961 - 1990 record period.

Extremes - Dates are the most recent occurrence.

Wind Dir.- Numerals show tens of degrees clockwise from true north. "00" indicates calm.

Resultant Directions are given to whole degrees.