

**Our Motto :**  
We're "For the Birds"

# **The Sanctuary on the Park Bird Club**

**Carol Race** - Main Tweeter  
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## **RECENT NEW RESIDENTS**

*(O.K. part time residents)*

Slowly, but surely, as we see the increase in the water flow in the south inlet and also in the retention area that our friends at ACWWA call Lagoon # 8 (and we call our Common Area) we also see more of our winged friends (?), the Canada Geese, who are becoming more prevalent. While we can enjoy their beauty we also can get annoyed by their bothersome habits and sheer numbers.

There are 7 subspecies of these birds, of varying sizes that are recognized as Canada Geese and many are hard to distinguish. They range in size from 30 to 40 inches in length to 50 to 78 inches in wing span. The male weighs about 7 lbs to 14 lbs. The female looks virtually identical to the male but is slightly lighter in color.

They are native to North America and breed mostly, in Canada and the northern U.S. in a variety of habitats. Their nest is usually located in an elevated area near water such as streams, lakes or ponds and sometimes on a beaver lodge. The eggs are laid in the shallow depression lined with plant material and Down. Lately, though, we have seen many nesters here in Colorado as they begin to assimilate to the area. In recent years, Canada Geese populations in some local areas have grown substantially, so much that many consider them pests for their droppings, noise and confrontational behavior. This problem is partially due to the removal of natural predators and the abundance of safe man made bodies of water such as golf courses, public parks, beaches, and in planned communities

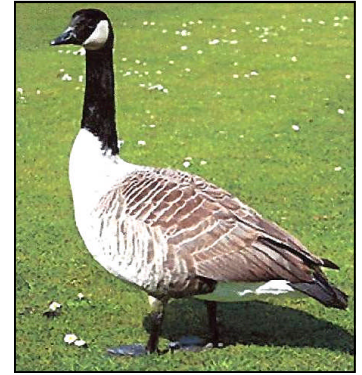
Like most geese, the Canada Goose is naturally migratory with wintering range being most of the U.S.. Noticed mainly for their recognizable V formation flight patterns their migration routes have changed due, in part, to food sources. They eat grains such as wheat, beans, rice & corn when available. It also feeds on grass. They grasp at the grass blades with the bill and tear it out (many times including the young roots) with a jerk of the head, a trait which especially endears it to golf course Groundskeepers.



In flight



Gosling



Feeding

They are monogamous, and most couples stay together all their lives. The female lays 3 to 8 eggs and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate. Known predators include Coyotes, Fox, Raccoons, large Gulls, Ravens, Crows and Bears.

## **The Joys of an early rising**

For the last month or so there have been a pair of Great Horned Owls lurking about the Common Area in search of an early morning breakfast. It happens just as dawn is breaking and their very recognizable sound brings both the Murlins and the Robinsons out on the deck to watch them. With their 44" wing span they are very noticeable as they swoop down on their unsuspecting prey. Just one more reason to be thankful for living at The Sanctuary on the park.



## **Can Spring be far behind ?**

Preparations are underway for the upcoming season. During the winter many repairs were necessary to our aging Habitats. Also a few changes have been made to locations. Of special note is the Kestrel/Flicker Box location near the Maplewood entrance. Watch for new activity there !