

**ABSTRACTS FOR CONDOR 104(1) FEBRUARY 2002 C.E.**

**SHORT COMMUNICATIONS**

**ARE BODY CONDITION AND REPRODUCTIVE EFFORT OF LAYING GREATER SNOW GEESE AFFECTED BY THE SPRING HUNT?**

JULIEN MAINGUY,<sup>1</sup> JOËL BÊTY,<sup>1</sup> GILLES GAUTHIER<sup>1,3</sup> AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS GIROUX<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Département de Biologie and Centre d'Études Nordiques, Université Laval, Ste-Foy, QC G1K 7P4, Canada*

<sup>2</sup>*Département des sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, QC H3C 3P8, Canada*

Manuscript received 13 April 2001; accepted 5 November 2001.

<sup>3</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: [gilles.gauthier@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:gilles.gauthier@bio.ulaval.ca)

*Abstract.* A spring hunt was implemented on the staging areas of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) in Quebec in 1999 and 2000. We evaluated whether this activity, which occurred during the period of spring nutrient storage, may have affected the body condition and reproductive effort of laying geese. We collected laying females in years with a spring hunt (1999–2000,  $n = 34$ ) and compared them with birds collected in years without a hunt (1989–1990,  $n = 10$ ). All indices of body condition and clutch size were significantly lower in years with a hunt than in years without, and laying dates were delayed. Tracking of radio-marked females on the staging and breeding areas showed that a lower proportion of females reached the nesting areas in years with a hunt (28% in 1999–2000,  $n = 80$ ) than in years without (85% in 1997–1998,  $n = 80$ ) and that fewer females nested (9% vs. 56%, respectively). Our results suggest that the spring hunt negatively affected nesting geese.

*Key words:* body condition, breeding effort, clutch size, Greater Snow Goose, laying date, nutrient reserve, spring hunt.

[Back to CONDOR 104\(1\) FEBRUARY 2002 C.E. Table of Contents](#)