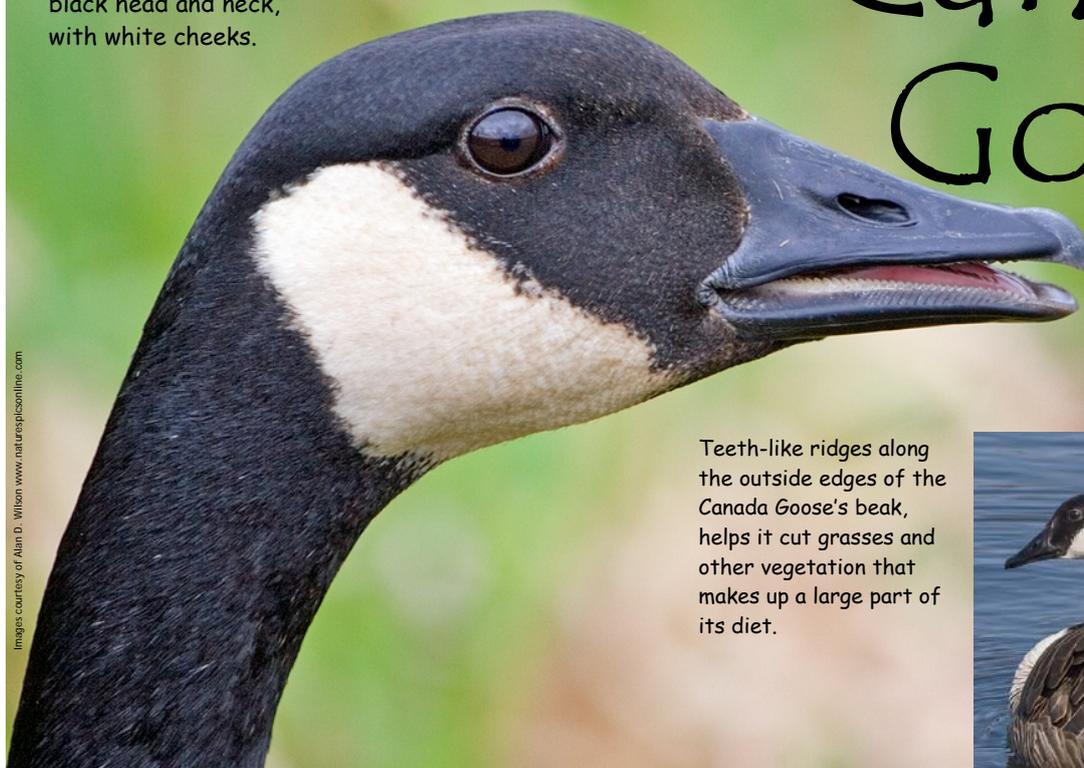


Canada Goose

The Canada Goose has a black head and neck, with white cheeks.



Images courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

Teeth-like ridges along the outside edges of the Canada Goose's beak, helps it cut grasses and other vegetation that makes up a large part of its diet.



Right: Canada Geese need to live near a water source.

Scientific Name: *Branta canadensis*
Irish Names: Gé Cheanadach

Canada Geese are native to North America. It breeds in such places as Canada, Alaska, Northern parts of the United States and Greenland. Some stay in the same place all year round while others migrate south for the winter. If weather is favourable, they can travel up to 2,400 km in 24 hours, flying in an impressive V-formation.

Having escaped from waterfowl collections in Ireland, Canada Geese now live in the wild here and are found mainly in Cos. Fermanagh, Down, Leitrim and Cavan.

Canada Geese are herbivores, eating grass, leaves, roots and seeds.

FACT FILE

Length: 95-105 cm

Colour: Grey-brown back and wings, paler body. Black head and neck with white cheeks.

Habitat: On grassland near water.

Clutch Size: 2-8 eggs

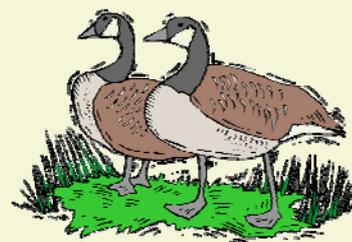
Family

Geese usually live together in large flocks but when it comes time to breed, a pair will go off to find their own territory.

Canada Geese mate for life and a pair will also spend the whole year together.

After laying a clutch of 2-8 eggs, the female incubates them while the male guards the nest.

A male goose is known as a **gander**, a female is known as a **goose** and the young a **gosling**.



A gosling