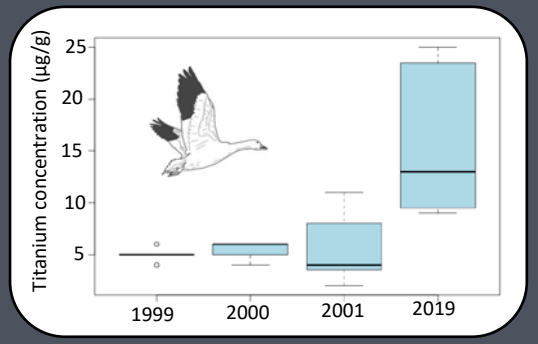
Investigating contaminants in birds nesting on Bylot Island

Contaminants such as heavy metals (either from human and natural origins) are transported to the Arctic (air and marine currents) and are accumulated through the food chain.

Bird eggs are good indicators of environmental contamination.

Snow goose eggs were collected on Bylot Island in 2019 and compared to eggs collected in 1999-2001.

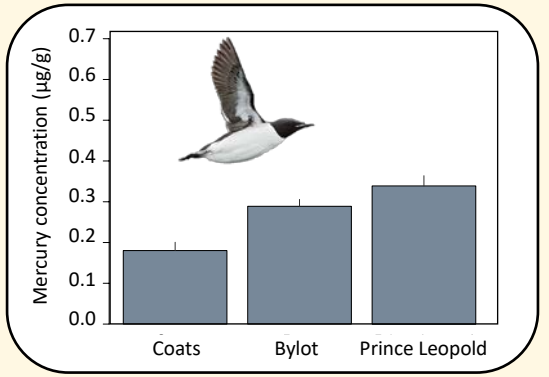
- ✓ No mercury detected
- ✓ Only traces of organic pollutants
- ✓ Decrease of lead concentration over time
- ✓ Detection of emerging contaminants (Titanium)



Snow geese present very low levels of contamination
No need to restrict consumption.

Murre eggs were collected on Bylot Island in 2019 and 2021 and compared to eggs collected at other Arctic sites.

- ✓ Medium levels of mercury and flame retardants compared to other murre colonies
- ✓ Detection of emerging contaminants (Titanium)



Thick bill murres present medium levels of contamination
Consuming one egg per day per person is safe. Contaminant exposure also depends on diet and frequency of intake.

Hunters involved in the project: B. Koonoo, J. Aglak & M.Koonark
Scientists: P. Legagneux, P. Thomas, G. Gauthier, M. Lemire & J. Gigault
Contact: pierre.legagneux@bio.ulaval.ca **Illustrations:** A. Langwieder & J. Ortega

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