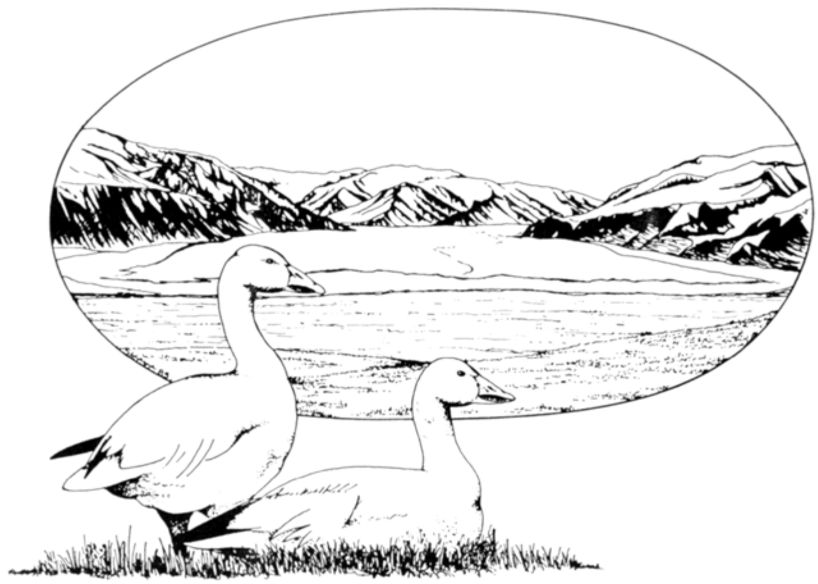
POPULATION STUDY OF GREATER SNOW GEESE AND ITS NESTING HABITAT ON BYLOT ISLAND, NUNAVUT IN 2016: A PROGRESS REPORT



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3 February 2017

INTRODUCTION

In 2016, we continued our long-term study of the population dynamics of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) and of the interactions between geese, plants and their predators on Bylot Island. Like many other goose populations worldwide, Greater Snow Geese have increased considerably during the late XXth century. The exploding population has imposed considerable stress on its breeding habitat, while extensive use of agriculture lands provides an unlimited source of food during winter and migratory stopovers for them. Remedial management actions during autumn, winter and spring have been undertaken since 1999 in Canada and 2009 in the United States to curb the growth of this population. A synthesis report produced in 2007 evaluated the initial success of these special conservation measures. However, both the Avian Monitoring Review Steering Committee Final Report and the Greater Snow Goose Action Plan released in 2012 by the Canadian Wildlife Service called for a continued monitoring of the dynamic of this population and of its habitats. In response to those needs, the long-term objectives of this project are to (1) monitor changes in the demographic parameters of the Greater Snow Goose population, and especially the effects of the spring conservation harvest on those parameters, (2) determine the role of food availability and predation in limiting annual production of geese, and (3) monitor the impact of grazing on the Arctic vegetation.

OBJECTIVES

Specific goals for 2016 were as follows:

1) Monitor productivity (egg laying date, clutch size and nesting success) of Greater Snow Geese on Bylot Island.
2) Mark goslings in the nest to provide a sample of known-age individuals to be used to assess the growth of goslings by their recapture in late summer.
3) Band goslings and adults, and neck-collar adult females at the end of the summer to continue the long-term study of demographic parameters such as survival and breeding propensity.
4) Monitor the abundance of lemmings and study their demography along with factors affecting their cyclic fluctuations of abundance.
5) Monitor the breeding activity of other bird species and in particular avian predators (Snowy Owls, jaegers, Glaucous Gulls and Rough-legged Hawks).
6) Monitor the breeding activity of foxes at dens.
7) Capture and mark adult Arctic Foxes and their pups with ear-tags to study their movements and demography.
8) Sample plants in exclosures to assess annual production and the impact of goose grazing on plant abundance in wet meadows.
9) Maintain our automated environmental and weather monitoring system.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

***Field camps.* —** In 2016, we operated two camps on Bylot Island: the main field station, located 6 km from the coast in the largest glacial valley on the island ("Qarlikturvik Valley", 73° 08' N, 80° 00' W), was occupied from 19 May to 21 August. A secondary camp, located in a narrow valley 30 km south of the main field station and 5 km from the coast ("Camp 2 area", 72° 53' N, 79° 54' W) was occupied from 29 May to 20 July (Fig. 1). Finally, 16 fly camps were also established for periods ranging from 3 to 12 days at various times throughout the island, west of Dufour Point.

***Field parties.* —** The total number of people in both camps ranged from 2 to 16 depending on the period. Members of our field party included project leaders Gilles Gauthier, Joël Bêty, Josée Lefebvre, Nicolas Lecomte and several graduate students whose thesis projects addressed many of the objectives mentioned above: Cynthia Resendiz (PhD, objectives 1 and 2), Claire-Cécile Juhasz (PhD, objective 1), Yannick Seyer (PhD, objective 5), Guillaume Slevan-Tremblay (MSc, objective 4) and Frédéric LeTourneux (MSc, objectives 1, 2 and 3). Several other students assisted them in the field, including Andréanne Beardsell, Nicolas Coallier, Kamil Chatila-Amos, Annie Picard, Clément Chevalier, Florence Lapierre-Poulin, Justine Drolet, Ariane Bisson and Benjamin Larue. Other people in the field included Marie-Christine Cadieux, a research professional in charge of goose banding and plant sampling (objectives 3 and 8); Denis Sarrazin, research professional responsible of the maintenance of the weather stations (objective 9); Christian Marcotte, a wildlife technician, from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS, Quebec region) and Jean-François Therrien, a biologist from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Pennsylvania, USA). Finally, we hired 2 persons from Pond Inlet work with us. They were Adrian Otoova (marking goslings in nests and goose banding: 6-10 July and 7-13 August) and Abbie Otoova (lemming monitoring: 30 June – 6 July).

Several other people also used our camps during the summer. They were Don-Jean Léandri-Breton (MSc student), Catherine Villeneuve, Éliane Duchesne and Dominique Gravel who studied shorebirds, lapland longspurs and insects under the supervision of Joël Bêty; the field party of Daniel Fortier (Université de Montréal) and Esther Lévesque (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières), which included Audrey Veillette (MSc student), Simon Charbonneau, Maria Peter (PhD student), Audrey Roy and Christophe Kinnard who studied the permafrost, geomorphology and plant ecology; the field party of Isabelle Laurion (Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique), which included Frédéric Bouchard (post-doc fellow), Vilmantas Preskienis (PhD student) and Thomas Pacoureau (PhD student), who studied the carbon cycle in ponds; and Florent Dominé (Takuvik, Université Laval/CNRS) and Maria Belke (PhD student) who studied the snow physical and chemical properties. Terry Kalluk, Carey Elverum, Brian Koonoo, Jenna Boon and Justin Milton from Parks Canada inspected both camps during the summer. Jonathan Pitseolak, Randy Quaraq and Ivan Koonoo also visited our camp for a few days to record sounds from the tundra for their Soundscape project. Finaly, Carey Elverum and Ivan Koonoo joined our crew for a day during goose banding.

***Environmental and weather data.* —** Environmental and weather data continued to be recorded at our four automated stations. Our network includes 3 full stations, two at low and one at high elevation (20 m and 312 m ASL, respectively) where air and ground temperature, air humidity, precipitations, snow depth, solar radiation, wind speed and wind direction are recorded on an hourly basis throughout the year (Fig. 1). A fourth station measures soil surface temperature in areas grazed and ungrazed by geese (i.e. exclosures). All automated stations were visited during the summer to download data and were found to be operating normally. Daily precipitation was also recorded manually during the summer. Finally, snowmelt was monitored by measuring snow depth at 50 stations along two 250-m transects and by visually estimating snow cover in the Qarlikturvik Valley, both at 2-day intervals.

Monitoring of goose arrival and nesting. **—** We monitored goose arrival in the Qarlikturvik Valley by counting goose pairs every two to three days from our arrival on the island on 5 June until the end of snowmelt on sample plots. Nest searches were carried out within walking distance (~6 km) of both the main field station and the Camp 2 between 8 and 18 June. Nests were found by systematic searches conducted over various areas in the field. At Camp 2, where the main goose colony is located, nest searches were conducted using two methods: 1) over an intensively-studied core area (ca 50 ha) located in the centre of the colony every year, and 2) within a variable number of 1 and 2-ha plots randomly located throughout the colony. Nest density was calculated over a fixed 20-ha area within the intensively-studied core area. We also attempted to find the nests of as many neck-collared females as possible through intensive searches on foot throughout the nesting colony. All nests were revisited at least twice to determine laying date, clutch size, hatching date and nesting success. During the hatching period, we visited a sample of nests almost daily to record hatch dates and to web-tag goslings.

Goose banding. **—** From 5 to 14 August, we banded geese with the assistance of a helicopter. Goose flocks of a few hundred birds were rounded up and driven by people on foot into a holding pen made of plastic netting. All captured geese were sexed and banded with a metal band, and all recaptures (web-tagged or leg-banded birds) were recorded. A sample of young and adults was measured (mass and length of culmen, head, tarsus and 9th primary) and some adult females were fitted with coded yellow plastic neck-collars.

Small mammals. **—** We sampled the annual abundance of lemmings at two sites in the Qarlikturvik Valley (one in wet meadow and one in mesic habitat) and one site at the Camp 2 (mixed habitat) in July using snap-traps. At each site, we used 240 Museum Special traps set at 80 stations spaced 15-m apart along two to four parallel transect lines 100 m apart and left open for 3 days. We also sample lemming abundance and demography using live-traps. We trapped on 2 grids (330 × 330 m) in the Qarlikturvik Valley (one in wet meadow habitat and one in mesic habitat) with 144 traps per grid and on a 3rd grid (200 × 340 m; 96 traps) in mesic habitat where a predator exclosure experiment was set up in 2012 (the grid is surrounded by a chicken wire fence and covered by criss-crossing fishing line on top). We also trapped at three other sites (270 × 270 m grids with 100 traps; mixed habitat): one between the main field station and Camp 2, one at Camp 2 and one at Dufour Point. We used Longworth traps set at each grid intersection every 30-m. We trapped for 3 consecutive days during 3 periods (mid-June, mid-July and mid-August) on grids of the Qarlikturvik Valley and during one period in mid-July elsewhere. All trapped animals are identified, sexed, weighed and marked with electronic PIT tags or ear-tags (or checked for the presence of such tags). Finally, we sampled the abundance of lemming winter nests along 121 500-m transects randomly distributed in 3 different habitats (wetlands, mesic tundra and streams in mesic tundra) at the four sites where live-traping was conducted.

***Breeding activity of foxes at dens and marking.* —** All known fox dens located within a 600 km^2 area were visited one to five times during the summer and inspected for signs of use and/or presence of reproductive adults with pups. Automated cameras were deployed at dens showing signs of activity. We attempted to live-trap adults with padded leghold traps at locations where foxes were seen hunting or travelling. At reproductive dens, we noted the species (Arctic Fox, *Vulpes lagopus*, or Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*) and minimum litter size, and, whenever possible, we live-trapped pups with Tomahawk collapsible cage traps. Cage traps were kept under continuous surveillance and leghold traps were visited at least every 6 hours. Captured foxes were measured, weighed and tagged on both ears using a unique set of coloured and numbered plastic tags. In addition, some adult Arctic Foxes were fitted with ARGOS satellites collars. Samples of winter and summer fur, blood, saliva, claws and scats were also collected for genetic, microbiome and diet analyses.

***Monitoring of other bird species.* —** We monitored the nesting activity of Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacus*), Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius longicaudus* and *S. parasiticus*), Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*), Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) and Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Nests were found through systematic searches of suitable habitats or opportunistically and revisited to determine their fate (successful or not) until fledging. Jaegers were captured at the nest and banded and some birds also received geolocators. Some Rough-legged Hawks were also captured and marked with cellular GPS transmitters.

***Monitoring of plant growth and goose grazing.* —** The annual plant production and the impact of goose grazing was evaluated in wet meadows dominated by graminoid plants at 2 sites (Fig. 1): the Qarlikturvik Valley (brood-rearing areas), and the Camp 2 area (nesting colony). At each site, 12 exclosures (1 × 1 m) were installed in late June in two groups of 6 in the same general area every year. At Camp 2, one of the groups of 6 exclosures was moved about 200 m in 2011 due to the natural drainage of some wetlands. Plant biomass was sampled in ungrazed and grazed areas (i.e. inside and outside exclosures) at the end of the plant-growing season between 11 and 15 August. Plants were sorted into sedges (*Eriophorum scheuchzeri* and *Carex aquatilis*) and grasses (*Dupontia fisheri*). Use of the area by geese was monitored by counting faeces on 1 × 10 m transects located near each exclosure every 2 weeks in the Qarlikturvik Valley and once at the end of the season at the Camp 2 area.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

***Weather conditions.* —** Temperatures in spring were generally mild. Air temperature averaged 0.42°C (0.42°C above normal) between 20 May and 20 June, the period of goose arrival and egg-laying, and 1.83°C (0.39°C above normal) during 1-15 June, which is the critical period of egg formation and egg-laying. Despite a relatively rapid snow-melt in June due to mild conditions, disappearance of snow on the ground was slightly delayed due to a very thick snow pack at the end of the winter (snow depth was 35.7 cm on 1 June; Fig. 2). Temperature throughout the summer was mild and sunny and precipitations were extremely low (cumulative rainfall from 1 June to 20 August: 20.7 mm, long-term average: 81.4 mm). The last two summers have been the driest on record since 1995.

Goose arrival and nesting activity. — The number of geese counted on the hills surrounding the Qarlikturvik Valley (main field station), usually the first area used by geese upon arrival, was very low at our first count on 7 June (59 pairs). This number increased rapidly over the next few days to peak at 328 pairs on 12 June, a moderate number (Fig. 3). This suggests that goose arrival on Bylot Island was delayed this year. The subsequent decline in goose numbers was due to the movements of geese to the nesting colony, away from the Qarlikturvik Valley.

Nest density in the center of the colony was lower than last year (5.50 vs. 9.26 nests/ha in 2015) but above the long-term average (Table 1). Fourteen nests were found in the Qarlikturvik Valley (predominantly a brood-rearing area) compared to only 1 in 2015. Median egg-laying date in the colony was 13 June, which is close to the long-term average egg-laying date on Bylot Island (Table 1). Overall, average clutch size was 3.36, which is quite low compared to the long-term average (Table 1).

Nesting success of geese. — Nesting success (73%; proportion of nests hatching at least one egg) was close to the long-term average (Table 1). The activity of nest predators (Arctic Foxes and birds of prey) was variable over time (high initially, lower later on) but moderate overall. During the summer, 122 neck-collared birds were sighted in the colony. Peak hatch was on 9 July, which is the long-term average (Table 1). We tagged 2389 goslings in nests at hatch, all the main colony of the Camp 2 area. Overall, nesting conditions of geese in 2016 were therefore moderate.

Density of broods. — The density of goose faeces at the end of the summer in wet meadows of the Qarlikturvik Valley was low (3.9 ± 0.6 [SE] faeces/m^2; long-term average: 6.3; Fig. 4). Accumulation of faeces began in mid-July, when newly-hatched broods started to move in the valley and increased steadily thereafter until mid-August. Faeces density at the end of the summer was near average in the wet meadows of the nesting colony at Camp 2 (4.0 ± 0.6 faeces/m^2; long-term average: 4.1).

Goose banding. — The banding operation was very successful this year due to good weather prevailing throughout the banding period. We conducted 10 drives in our core banding area, i.e. in the lowlands and hills bordering the main field station to the south and north (< 8 km), and 7 additional drives further away, between the Camp 2 and the Qarlikturvik Valley. We banded a total of 4357 geese, including 678 adult females marked with neck-collars and 82 young that had been marked with web-tags at hatch. In addition, we recaptured 296 adults that were banded in previous years. The young:adult ratio among geese captured at banding was lower than last year (0.91:1) and below the long-term average (Table 1). Mean brood size toward the end of brood-rearing (2.35 young, n = 106; counts conducted between 30 July and 4 August) was also below the long-term average. By combining information on brood size and young:adult ratio at banding, we estimated that 78% of the adults captured were accompanied by young, a moderate value (Table 1). Overall, these results are indicative of a moderate production of young on Bylot Island by the end of the summer.

***Small mammals.* —** During our survey using snap traps, we cumulated 1646 trap-nights at our 2 trapping sites of the Qarlikturvik Valley from 24 to 30 July, and 693 trap-nights at the Camp 2 from 16 to 18 July. In the Qarlikturvik sites, we caught 6 Collared Lemming (*Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*) and 17 Brown Lemmings (*Lemmus trimucronatus*), which yielded a combined index of abundance of 1.53 lemming/100 trap-nights, a high value (Fig. 5). The estimated abundance was higher in the Camp 2 area, as 12 Collared Lemmings and 7 Brown Lemming were caught, for an index of 2.90 lemming/100 trap-nights. The live-trapping survey conducted throughout the summer in the Qarlikturvik Valley area revealed the same picture. Overall, we captured 164 Brown Lemmings and 62 Collared Lemmings, for an index of 6.5 lemmings/100 trap-nights, a lower number compared to last year (10.0 lemmings/100 trap-nights). A formal estimation of density using capture-recapture methods indeed showed that both lemming species had declined compared to 2015 (Fig. 6). The live-trapping survey conducted at the three sites outside the Qarlikturvik Valley suggested a moderate abundance of lemmings across Bylot Island. We captured a total of 18 lemmings (17 Brown and 1 Collared Lemmings) at these three sites in mid-July, for an overall index of 2.0 lemmings/100 trap-nights (compared to 1.6 in 2015). Finally, the number of lemming winter nests found along our transects also indicates a reduction of lemmings during winter as we counted 292 nests in 2016 compared to 472 in 2015.

***Breeding activity of foxes at dens and marking.* —** We found 2 new fox dens on the island in 2016, bringing the total to 112 known denning sites still intact. Among these dens, we found signs of activity (fresh digging and/or footprints) at 52 of them, a high number. The breeding activity was very high as we found 36 different litters (32% of known denning sites) of Arctic Foxes, a record number (31 litters were found in 2015). No Red Fox litters were found in 2016. The very high breeding activity of Arctic Foxes is somewhat unusual and much higher than what we normally observe in years of high lemming abundance (average: 22%). This may be because lemming abundance has been relatively high for a third summer, which is also unusual. Minimum litter size of Arctic Fox varied between 2 and 12 pups (6 pups on average). A total of 105 Arctic Foxes (29 adults and 76 juveniles) were captured during the summer. Ninety-five Arctic Foxes (19 adults and 76 juveniles) captured were new individuals and 10 had been marked in previous years. All new individuals were marked with ear-tags. Among the adults captured, 17 were also fitted with satellite collars to study their home ranges and movements at large spatial scale over the entire annual cycle.

***Monitoring of other bird species.* —** We found 43 active nests of Glaucous Gulls (vs. 29 in 2015), 5 nests of Parasitic Jaegers (vs. 2 in 2015), 48 nests (including 3 confirmed renesting) of Long-tailed Jaegers (vs. 38 in 2015), 30 nests of Rough-legged Hawks (vs. 21 in 2015) and 4 nests of Snowy Owls (vs. none in 2015). The high nesting activities of avian predators is usually typical of what we encountered in a year of high lemming abundance. We found 65 nests of Lapland Longspurs compared to 89 in 2015. Average clutch size of birds of prey increased compared to 2015: 3.0 eggs for gulls (vs. 2.4 in 2015), 1.9 eggs for Long-tailed Jaegers (vs. 1.5 in 2015) and 4.0 eggs for hawks (vs. 3.8 in 2015). Average clutch size of longspurs had remained the same with 5.3 eggs vs. 5.2 in 2015. Nesting success of birds of prey was good for gulls, hawks and owls (78%, 71% and 100%, respectively) and moderate for jaegers (41%). Fledging success (proportion of nests successful in fledging at least one young) was moderate for longspurs (51%). We captured 41 Long-taild Jaegers (23 recaptures and 18 newly-marked birds) and 20 were marked with geolocators. We also captured 7 adult female Rough-legged hawks and equipped them with transmitters.

Plant growth and grazing impact. **—** Plant production in wet meadows of the brood-rearing area was the lowest value recorded since 2004 (Fig. 7). Above-ground biomass of graminoid plants in the Qarlikturvik Valley reached 44.2 ± 8.1 [SE] g/m^2 in ungrazed areas in mid-August compared to 69.7 ± 6.6 in 2015 (long-term average since 1990: 50.9 g/m^2). Biomass of both *Eriophorum* and *Dupontia* was lower compared to last year (Fig. 7). At the nesting colony (Camp 2 area), graminoid biomass had also decreased compared to last year (73.7 ± 12.7 g/m^2, Fig. 8) and was also the lowest recorded since plant monitoring was moved to new sites at Camp 2 in 2011. Biomass of both *Eriophorum* (47.7 ± 10.1 g/m^2) and *Dupontia* (25.1 ± 3.6 g/m^2) decreased compared to last year in the exclosures.

Grazing pressure was moderate in the wet meadows of the Qarlikturvik Valley in 2016 as geese had removed 28% of the above-ground biomass (difference between paired grazed and ungrazed plots) by mid-August (long-term average: 31%; Fig. 7). Grazing pressure was much higher on *Eriophorum* (58% of biomass removed), the preferred plant of geese, than *Dupontia* (7% of biomass removed). Grazing pressure at the Camp 2 area (nesting colony) was higher than at the Qarlikturvik Valley (43% of the graminoid biomass removed by geese) and higher than the long-term average at this site (26%; Fig. 8). Geese also removed more of the *Eriophorum* than the *Dupontia* biomass (52% vs. 23%, respectively) at this site.

CONCLUSIONS

The production of young geese on Bylot Island was moderate in 2016. Despite warm temperature at the time of laying, the disappearance of snow on the ground was somewhat delayed due to a thick snow pack at the end of the winter. Although goose arrival was delayed this year, possibly due to conditions encountered during the spring migration, they were able to nest near their usual date in the colony. Nest density in the colony suggests that the breeding effort at the level of the population was moderate but clutch size was much lower than normal. The fact that breeding phenology of geese was not delayed despite their late arrival may have reduced the amount of time devoted to feeding during the pre-laying period, and thus limited the amount of nutrient that they could invest in egg formation. However, a high level of partial predation on goose nests at laying time may have also contributed to the low clutch size. Nesting success of geese was moderately high even though we had a record abundance and reproductive effort of arctic foxes on the island for a second year in a row. The high fox abundance is undoubtedly due to the lemming density, which has remained relatively high for a third year in a row, allowing a good production of foxes over the last two years. Lemming density was apparently high enough to sustain foxes and to attenuate somewhat their impact on goose nests despite the very high fox abundance this year.

A moderate breeding effort, a high abundance of predatory foxes but especially the low clutch size all contributed to a relatively low abundance of young at the end of the summer on Bylot Island. Based on the young:adult ratio recorded at banding, we thus anticipated a relatively low percentage of young in the fall flock with a predicted value of 16%, below the long-term average (23%). The percentage of young measured during juvenile counts conducted in southern Quebec this fall was 17% (n = 28,078), a value very close to the anticipated one. This suggests that breeding conditions encountered by geese on Bylot Island were fairly representative of those prevailing elsewhere in the eastern Canadian Arctic in 2016.

Above-ground graminoid production in wet meadows of the Qarlikturvik Valley (a brood-rearing area) and of the colony was reduced compared to last year. At the former site, it was the lowest value recorded for the past 12 years. Even though the past two summers have been fairly warm, they also have been extremely dry, and resulted in the drying out of several ponds by mid to late summer. These conditions may have contributed to a reduced plant growth in that valley in 2016. The moderate production of young combined to poor plant growth in the wet habitat that we monitored may explain why geese were not present in large numbers throughout the brood-rearing period as shown by the low density of faeces recorded. The limited availability of water may have forced geese to concentrate their feeding activity in the wettest habitat patches. Accordingly, plant sampling showed that goose grazing pressure in wet habitats was moderate in 2016, though higher in the colony itself than in the brood-rearing areas of the Qarlikturvik Valley. The higher grazing pressure in the colony suggests that fewer goose families moved from the colony to the Qarlikturvik Valley after hatch, possibly due to the moderate production of young.

PLANS FOR 2017

The long-term objectives of our work are to study the population dynamics of Greater Snow Geese, and the interactions between geese, plants, and their predators on Bylot Island. A major focus of the project is to monitor changes in demographic parameters (such as survival rate, hunting mortality, breeding propensity, reproductive success, and recruitment) and habitat (annual plant production and grazing impact) in response to the spring conservation harvest and other special management actions implemented since 1999 in Canada and since 2009 in the United States. Other aspects of the project include *i*) understanding better the links between events occurring during the spring migration and the subsequent breeding success of geese; *ii*) determining the long-term effects of geese on the arctic landscape; *iii*) assessing how climate change may be affecting the carrying capacity of the habitat for geese, *iv*) studying indirect interactions between snow geese and lemmings via shared predators; *v*) studying the ecology of the main predator of geese, Arctic Foxes; and *vi*) assessing the impact of climate change on goose reproduction. In 2017, we anticipate to:

1) Monitor productivity (egg laying date, clutch size and nesting success) and nesting distribution of Greater Snow Geese on Bylot Island.
2) Mark goslings in the nest to provide a sample of known-age individuals to assess the growth and pre-fledging survival of goslings by their recapture in late summer.
3) Band goslings and adults, and neck-collar adult females at the end of the summer to continue the long-term study of demographic parameters such as survival and breeding propensity.
4) Monitor the abundance of lemmings and study their demography in relationship with snow conditions.
5) Monitor the breeding activity of other bird species, in particular avian predators (Snowy Owls, jaegers, Glaucous Gulls and Rough-legged Hawks).
6) Monitor the breeding activity of foxes at dens and mark individuals to study their movements and demography.
7) Study the hunting behavior of Arctic Foxes in the goose colony and their interactions with geese.
8) Sample plants in exclosures to assess annual production and the impact of goose and lemming grazing on plant abundance in wet meadows.
9) Maintain our automated environmental and weather monitoring system.

In 2017, at least 4 graduate students will be involved in the Bylot Island snow goose project. **Yannick Seyer** (PhD) will continue his study on the migratory and reproductive strategies of the Long-tailed Jaegers. **Claire-Cécile Juhasz** (PhD) will continue her study on the effects of predators and food on the reproductive success of snow geese. **Frédéric LeTourneux** (MSc) will continue his study of the impact of recent management actions on the survival and population dynamics of snow geese. Finally, **Mathilde Poirier** (MSc) will start a study on the population dynamics of lemmings and how it is impacted by snow physical properties.

Table 1. Productivity data of Greater Snow Geese nesting on Bylot Island over the past decade.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	**2016**	Average[2]
Number of nest monitored	494	466	405	372	382	375	451	491	347	**337**	--
Nest density (n/ha)	4.07	6.36	4.94	2.95	4.89	5.24	8.85	7.89	9.26	**5.50**	4.82
Median date of egg-laying	16 June	10 June	12 June	13 June	13 June	12 June	13 June	11 June	12 June	**13 June**	12 June
Clutch size	3.91	4.10	3.38	3.68	3.74	3.80	3.58	3.85	3.48	**3.36**	3.69
Nesting success[1]	82%	74%	74%	80%	90%	54%	67%	91%	77%	**73%**	68%
Median date of hatching	11 July	6 July	9 July	10 July	8 July	9 July	10 July	8 July	9 July	**9 July**	9 July
Number of geese banded	4260	3395	5417	4267	3802	2512	4865	2001	3675	**4357**	3571
Ratio young:adult at banding	1.11:1	1.11:1	1.07:1	1.18:1	1.19:1	0.92:1	1.10:1	1.19:1	0.99:1	**0.91:1**	1.04:1
Brood size at banding	2.90	3.07	2.35	2.39	2.80	2.54	2.51	2.58	2.08	**2.35**	2.50
Proportion of adults with young at banding	77%	72%	91%	98%	85%	73%	88%	92%	95%	**78%**	83%

[1] Mayfield estimate
[2] Period 1989-2016

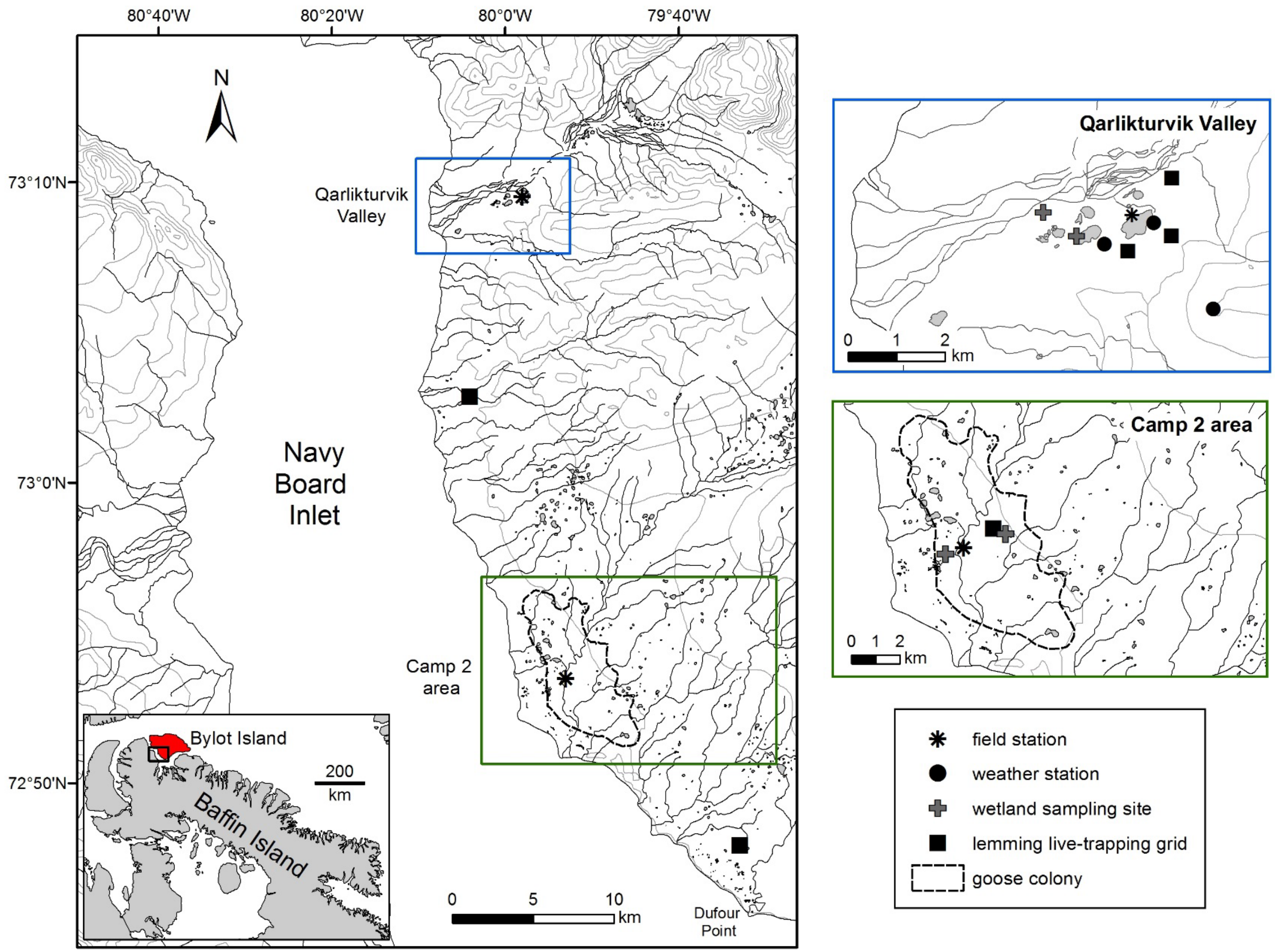

Figure 1. Location of the two main study sites (Qarlikturvik Valley and the Camp 2 area) on the South Plain of Bylot Island, Nunavut. Enlarged maps on the right present these study sites in more details, including locations of our field stations, automated weather stations, wetland sampling sites for plants, lemming live-trapping grids and the extent of the goose colony.

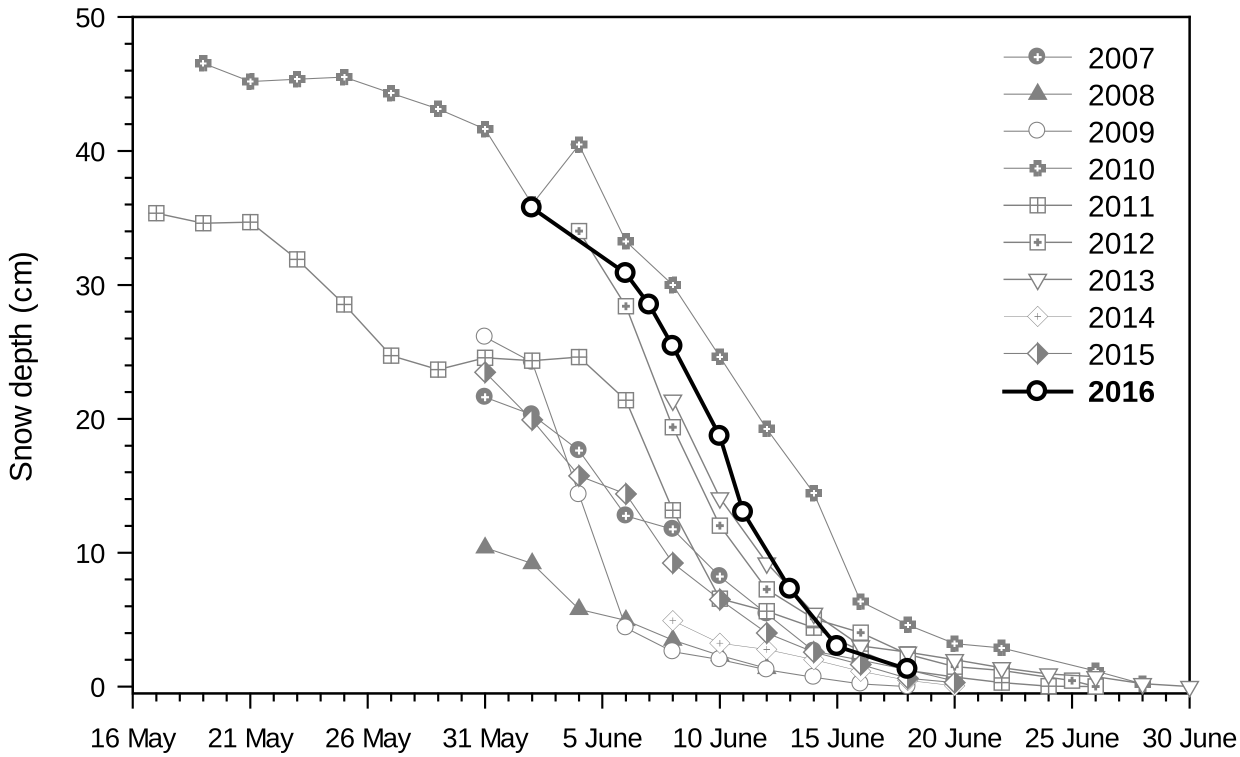

Figure 2. Average depth of snow along 2 transects showing the rate of snowmelt in the lowlands of Bylot Island in spring over the past decade (*n* = 50 stations).

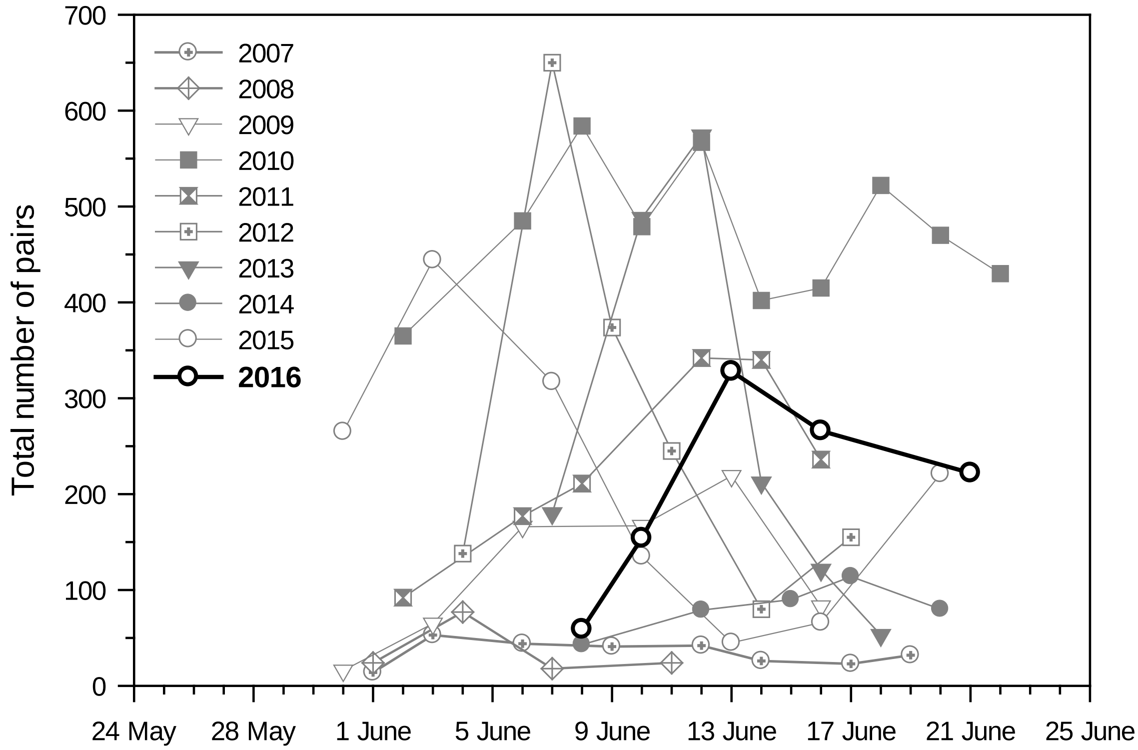

Figure 3. Total number of goose pairs counted in the Qarlikturvik Valley from arrival of our crew on Bylot Island in late May until the end of snowmelt over the past decade.

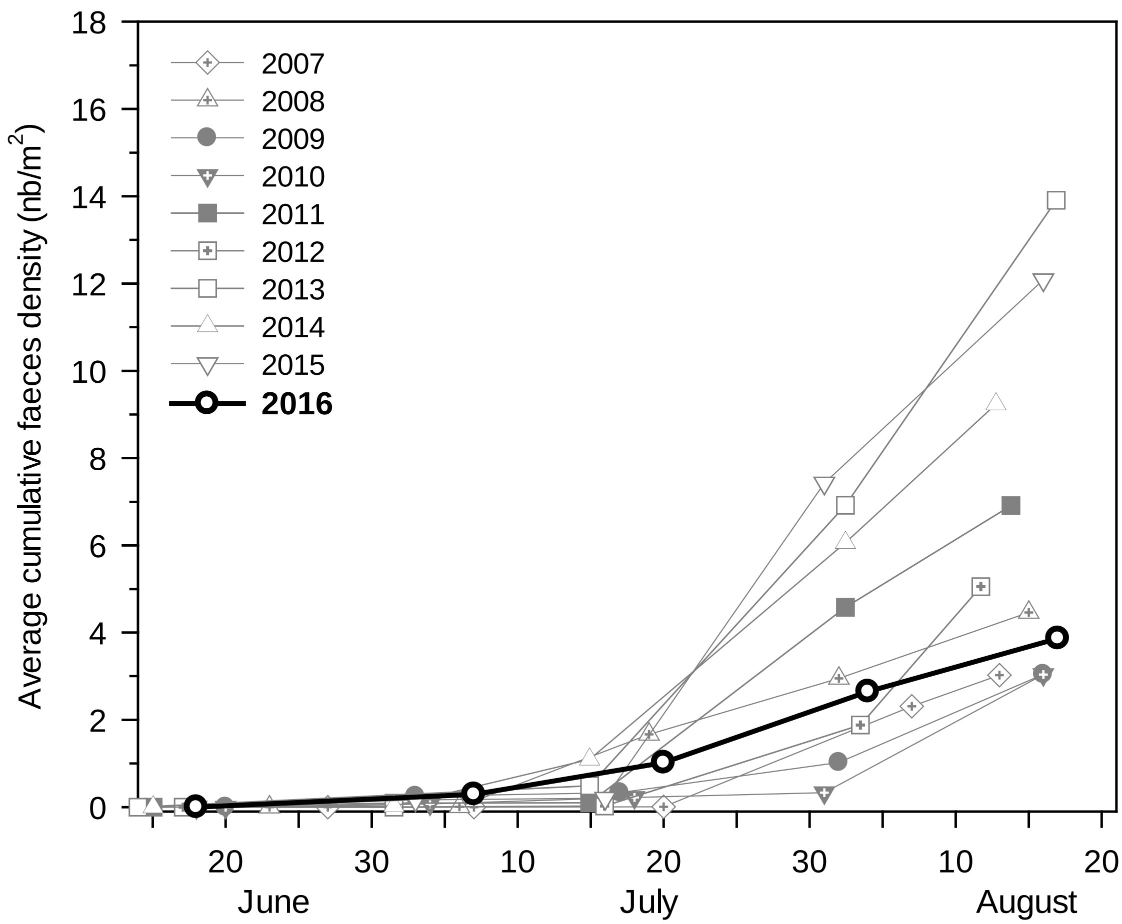

Figure 4. Average cumulative faeces density showing the use of the Qarlikturvik Valley by Greater Snow Goose families on Bylot Island throughout the summer over the past decade (n = 12 transects of 1 x 10 m; except 2013 n = 5 and 2016 n = 11).

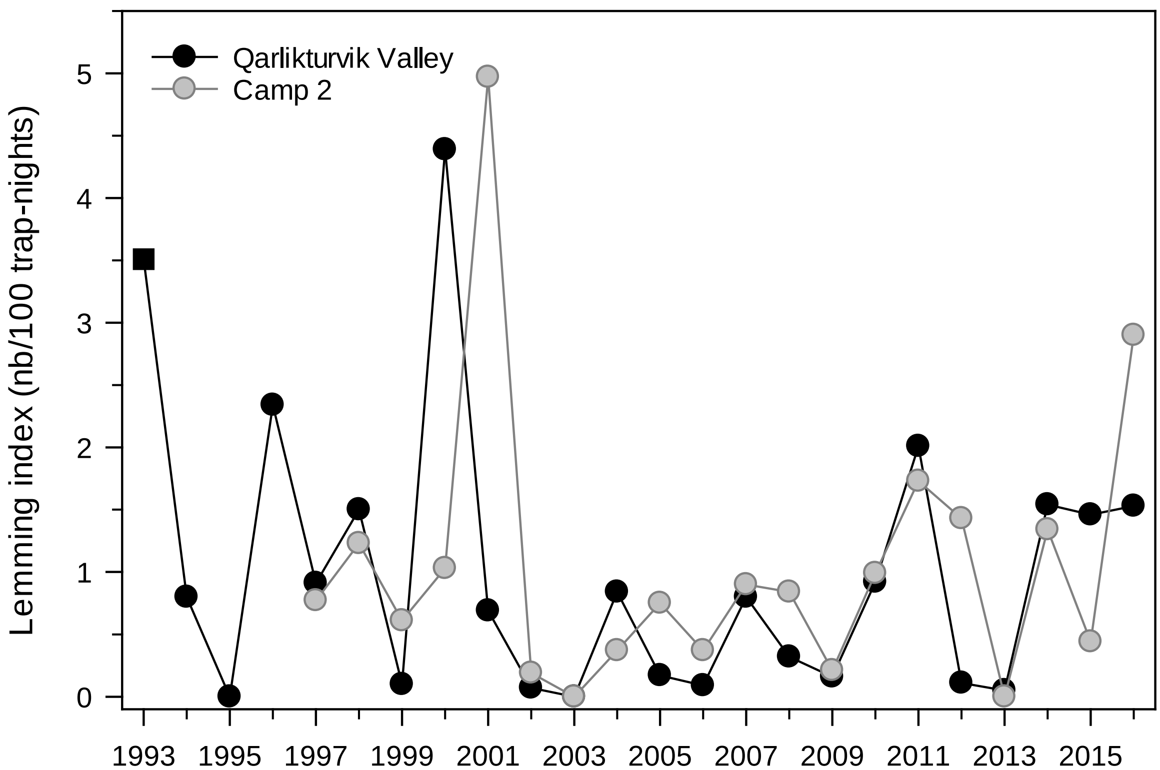

Figure 5. Annual index of lemming abundance based on snap-trapping at two study areas (Qarlikturvik Valley and Camp 2) located 30 km apart on Bylot Island (see Fig. 1).

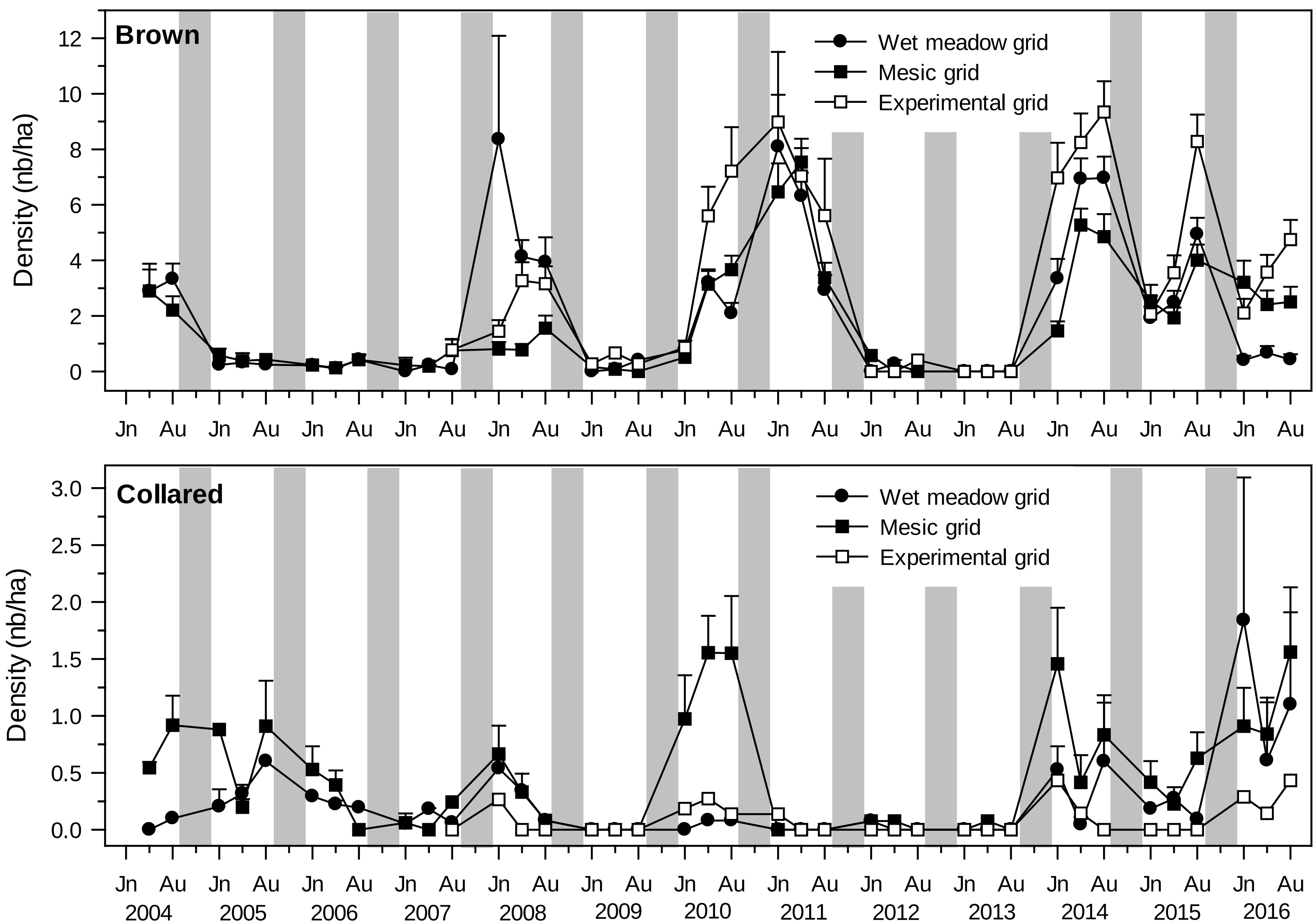

Figure 6. Annual summer density (+ SE) of Brown and Collared Lemmings on 3 trapping grids located in the Qarlikturvik Valley of Bylot Island (snow cover was increased from 2008 to 2011 and predators were excluded from 2012 to 2016 on the experimental grid). The gray area indicates winter. Jn = mid-June, Au = mid-August.

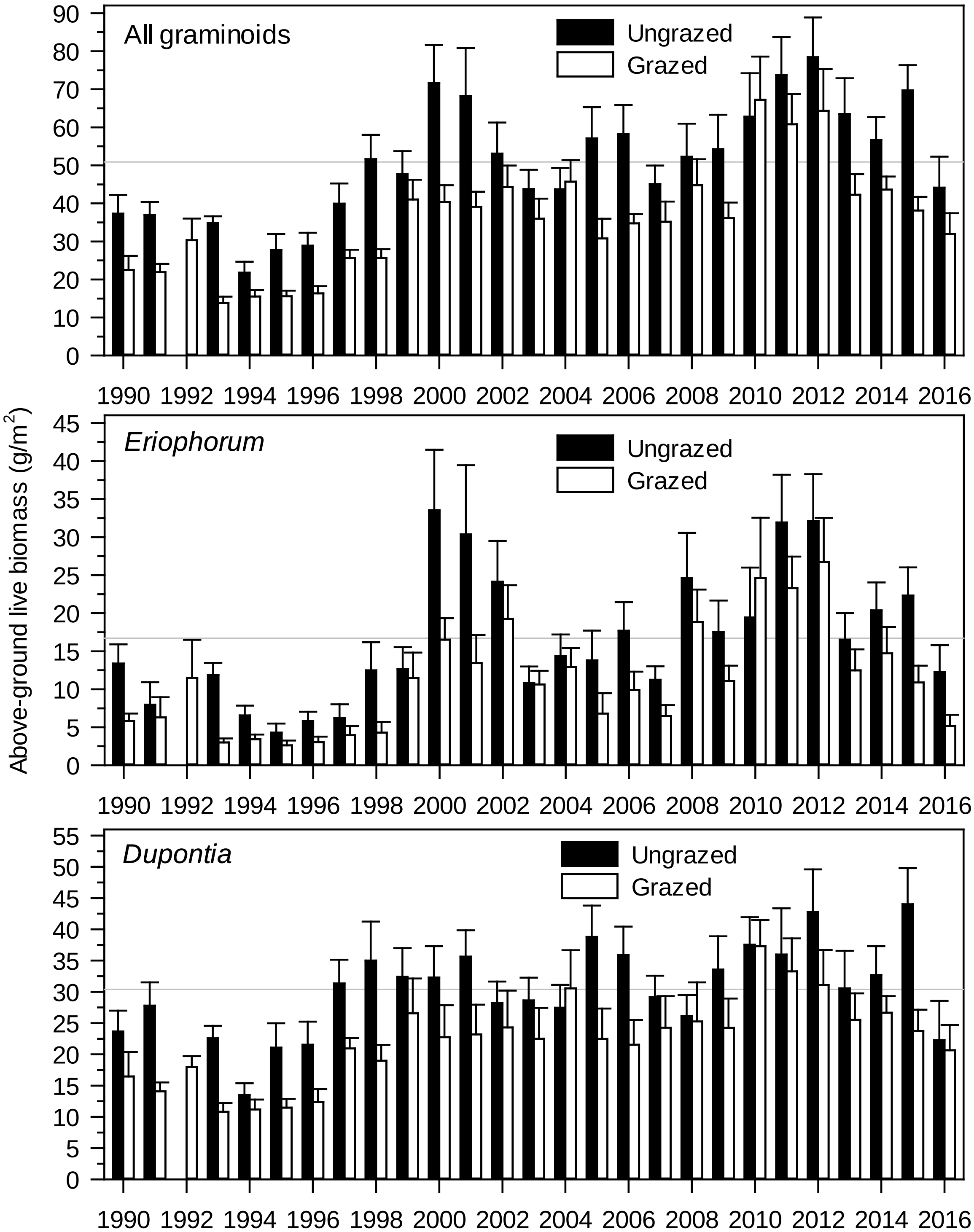

Figure 7. Live above-ground biomass (mean + SE, dry mass) of graminoids on 11 and 14 August in grazed and ungrazed wet meadows of the Qarlikturvik Valley, Bylot Island (n = 12, except in 2013, 2014 and 2016, n = 11). Total graminoids include *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*, *Dupontia fisheri* and *Carex aquatilis*. There is no data from ungrazed area in 1992. The solid gray line is the long-term average for ungrazed area.

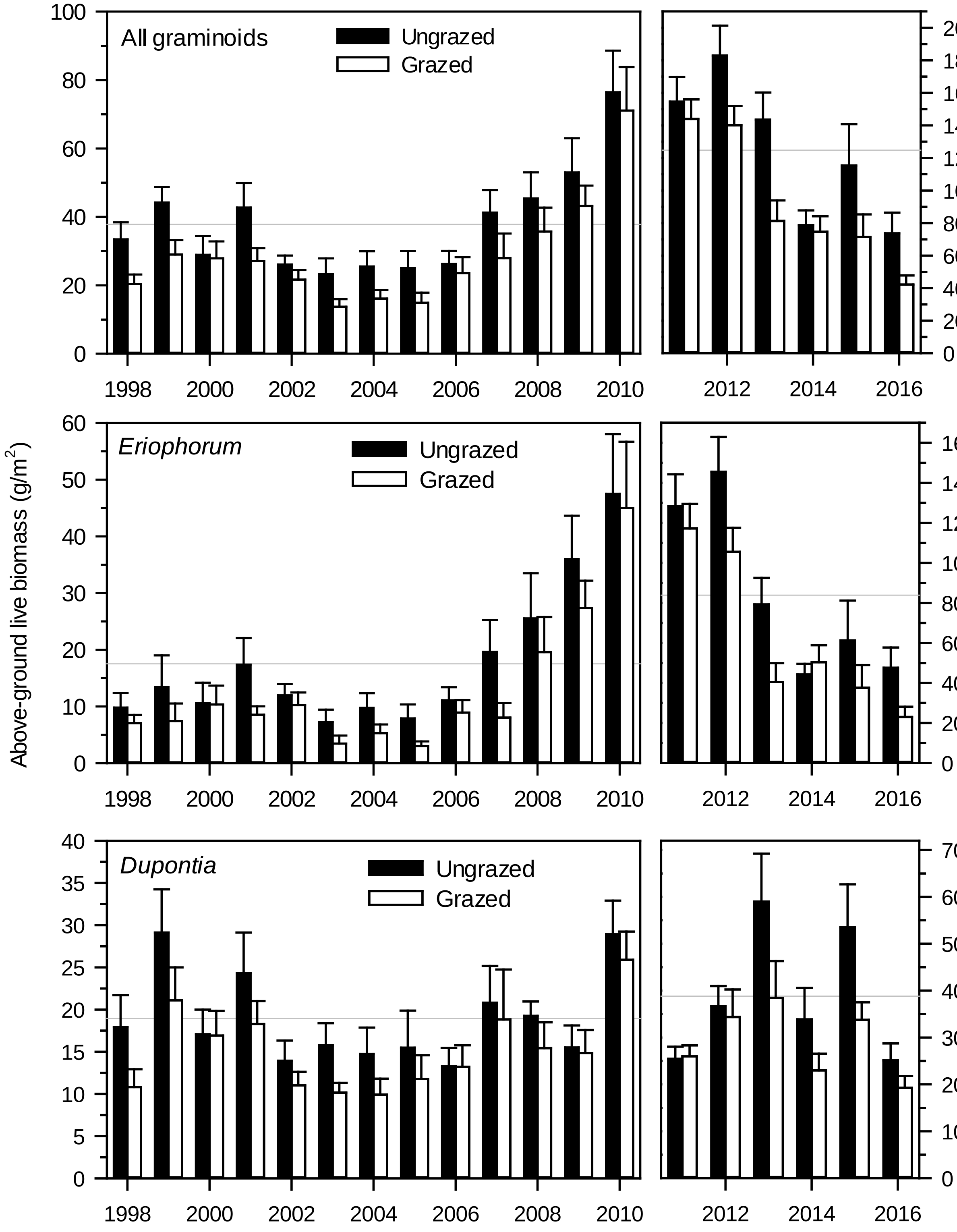

Figure 8. Live above-ground biomass (mean + SE, dry mass) of graminoids on 15 August in grazed and ungrazed wet meadows of the Camp 2 (goose colony), Bylot Island (n = 12, except in 2008 and 2014 n = 8, and 2012, 2013 and 2015 n = 10). Total graminoids include *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*, *Dupontia fisheri* and *Carex aquatilis*. Half of the exclosures had to be moved to a new site in 2011, which explains why the figure was split and the long-term average for ungrazed area (solid gray line) calculated separately before/after 2011.

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C.141. Rioux, M.-J., S. Lai, J. Bêty & D. Berteaux. 2013. Spatial winter dynamics in arctic fox pairs at Bylot Island. *Fourth International Conference in Arctic Fox Biology*, Westfjords, Iceland.

C.140. Berteaux, D. 2013. Range margins of Arctic and Red fox in a rapidly changing Arctic, *8th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution*, Kelowna, BC.

C.139. Berteaux, D. 2013. État et tendances de la biodiversité arctique. *Chantier arctique français*, Paris, France.

C.138. Legagneux, P., G. Gauthier, P.L.F. Fast, N. J. Harms, H. G. Gilchrist, C. Soos & J. Bêty. 2013. Empirical and experimental evidence of carry-over effects on waterfowl reproduction. *Canadian Society of Zoologists Annual Meeting*, Guelph, ON.

C.137. Souchay, G., G. Gauthier & R. Pradel. 2013. A new approach to account for temporary emigration using a multi-event framework. *EURING analytical conference*, Athens, GA.

C.136. Van Oudenhove, L., G. Gauthier, & J.D. Lebreton. 2013 Modelling climatic effects on the population dynamic of a long-distance, arctic-nesting migrant. *EURING analytical conference*, Athens, GA.

C.135. Legagneux, P., C. Juillet, P.L.F. Fast, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2013. Experimental evidence of carry-over effects on greater snow goose reproduction and its management implications. *6th North American Duck Symposium and Workshop*, Memphis, TN.

C.134. Bêty, J. 2013. Understanding individual variation in reproductive strategies: the challenge of integrating physiology, optimization model and environmental stressors. *6th North American Duck Symposium and Workshop*, Memphis, TN.

C.133. Lefebvre, J., M. Huang, J.-F. Giroux, M. Bélisle, J. Bêty & C. Dwyer. 2013. Satellite telemetry improves our understanding of habitat use patterns and population estimates of greater snow geese. *6th North American Duck Symposium and Workshop*, Memphis, TN.

C.132. Bilodeau, F., S. Lai, G. Gauthier & D. Berteaux. 2012. Are tundra lemming populations controlled from the bottom-up or the top-down? *Eighth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.

C.131. Fauteux, D., G. Gauthier, D. Berteaux & R. Boonstra. 2012. Direct and indirect effects of predation on lemmings in the High Arctic. *Eighth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.

C.130. Doucet, C., G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2012. Synchrony between breeding phenology of an arctic-nesting insectivore and its food resources: investigating the effect of mismatch on juvenile growth rate. *Eighth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.

C.129. Gauthier, G. 2012. Long-term changes in the Bylot Island tundra food web: a 20-year case study in the Canadian High Arctic. *Conference Tundra Change – The ecological dimension*. Aarhus, Denmark.

C.128. Fauchald, P., D. Ehrich, J. Schmidt, K. Klokov, F. S. I. Chapin, D. Berteaux & V. Hausner. 2012. The importance, management and status of harvested animals in the Arctic tundra ecosystems. *4th International Conference EcoSummit*, Columbus, OH.

C.127. Gauthier, G., D. Berteaux, P. Legagneux, D.G. Reid, C.J. Krebs & J. Bêty. 2012. The role of predators in controlling the tundra food web: New evidence from the ArcticWOLVES project. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.126. Fast, P.L.F., M. Doiron, G. Gauthier, J.A. Schmutz, D.C. Douglas, J. Madsen, J.Y. Takekawa, J. Yee & J. Bêty. 2012. Linking animal migration, spring weather and timing of breeding in an arctic herbivore. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.125. McKinnon, L., C.A. Corkery, E. Bolduc, C. Juillet, J. Bêty & E. Nol. 2012. Assessing the vulnerability of Arctic-nesting shorebirds to climate induced changes in food resource peaks. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.124. Juillet, C., R. Choquet, G. Gauthier, R. Pradel & J. Lefebvre. 2012. Carry-over effects of spring hunt and climate on recruitment to the natal colony in a migratory species. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.123. Lai, S., D. Berteaux and J. Bêty 2012. Movement tactics and habitat selection of overwintering arctic foxes in the Canadian high Arctic. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.122. Lamarre, J.-F., J. Bêty & G. Gauthier. 2012. Shorebird predation risk in the high-Arctic, do geese have a role to play? *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.121. Berteaux, D., G. Gauthier, J. Bêty, A. Franke & G. Gilchrist. 2012. Effects of climate change on the canadian arctic wildlife. *International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action*. Montréal, QC.

C.120. Therrien, J.-F., G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2011. Avian predators play a key role in population regulation and energy flux of the Arctic tundra food web. *Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation*, Duluth, MN.

C.119. Bêty, J. 2011. Sensitive Arctic birds under the spotlights: global change and recent discoveries. *Society of Canadian Ornithologists Annual Meeting*, Moncton, NB.

C.118. Legagneux, P., P. Fast, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2011. Manipulating individual state during migration provides evidence for carry-over effects modulated by environmental conditions. *Society of Canadian Ornithologists Annual Meeting*, Moncton, NB.

C.117. Bêty, J. 2011. Ecology and evolution of arctic migrants: fundamental questions and recent results. *Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Wenner-Gren Foundations*, Sweden.

C.116. Gauthier, G. 2011. Lemmings: a keystone species of the tundra food web vulnerable to climate change. *6th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution*, Banff, AB.

C.115. Tarroux, A., D. Berteaux & J. Bêty. 2011. The marine side of a terrestrial mammal: trophic niche and diet specialization of arctic foxes. *Estación Biológica de Doñana – CSIC*, Sevilla, Spain.

C.114. Gauthier, G. & M.-C. Cadieux. 2011. Goose-plant interactions on Bylot Island in the context of global warming. *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.113. Legagneux, P., P. Fast, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2011. Migratory connectivity in Greater Snow Geese: carry-over effects of a manipulation of spring body condition. *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.112. Fast, P., C. Redjadj, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2011. Using isotopes to assess the importance of stopover sites to fuel migration and reproduction in Snow Geese. *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.111. Doiron, M., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2011. Climate change and the ecological mismatch between Greater Snow Goose breeding and plant phenology. *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.110. Desnoyers, M. & G. Gauthier. 2011. Travelling in greater snow goose flocks: do you know with whom you're travelling? *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.109. Horrigan, E., R.L. Jefferies & G. Gauthier. 2011. Vegetation responses to simulated snow goose herbivory in two arctic ecosystems. *Twelfth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Portland, OR.

C.108. Gauthier, G. & D. Berteaux. 2010. Is the tundra food web controlled by top predators? New evidence from the ArcticWOLVES project. *Seventh ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Ottawa, ON.

C.107. Bilodeau, F., G. Gauthier & D. Berteaux. 2010. Life under the snow: the effect of the snow cover on lemming population dynamics. *Seventh ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Ottawa, ON.

C.106. Chalifour, E., J. Bêty, M. Bélisle, J. Lefebvre & J.-F. Giroux. 2010. Molt migration of Greater Snow Geese. *Seventh ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Ottawa, ON.

C.105. Tarroux, A., D. Berteaux & J. Bêty. 2010. Surviving the arctic winter: insights into the foraging tactics of an arctic terrestrial predator. *Seventh ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Ottawa, ON.

C.104. Fast, P. 2010. Studies of migratory connectivity and nest choice in Arctic waterfowl. *Max Planck Institute for Ornithology*, Seewiesen, Germany.

C.103. Gauthier, G., J.-F. Therrien, J. Bêty, F. Doyle & D. Reid. 2010. Surprising migratory movements and site fidelity unraveled by satellite-tracking of snowy owls. *25th International Ornithological Conference*, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

C.102. Legagneux, P., G. Gauthier, D. Berteaux, J. Bêty, M.-C. Cadieux, G. Szor, F. Bilodeau, E. Bolduc, L. McKinnon, A. Tarroux, J.-F. Therrien, M.-A. Valiquette, L. Morissette & C.J. Krebs. 2010. Modeling temporal trophic dynamics of a terrestrial arctic ecosystem. *IPY Oslo Conference*, Oslo, Norway.

C.101. Doiron, M., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2010. Plant-herbivore interactions and climate change: the case of the Greater Snow Goose. *IPY Oslo Conference*, Oslo, Norway.

C.100. Legagneux, P., P. Fast, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty 2010. Effect of spring condition manipulation on reproductive success in the greater snow geese *Chen caerulescens*. *5th annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution*, Quebec, QC.

C.99. Therrien, J.-F., G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2010. The lemming buffet: is there anything left after owls and jaegers have eaten? *5th annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution*, Quebec, QC.

C.98. Desnoyers, M. & G. Gauthier. 2010. Le voyage organisé, un aspect inconnu du comportement grégaire de la grande oie des neiges *Chen caerulescens*. *5th annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution*, Quebec, QC.

C.97. Gauthier, G., D. Berteaux, J. Bêty, P. Legagneux, L. McKinnon, J.-F. Therrien, A. Tarroux, M.-C. Cadieux, C.J. Krebs, D. Reid, & D. Morris. 2010. The role of predators in structuring the Arctic terrestrial food web: preliminary results from the ArcticWOLVES project. *IPY Canada Early Results Workshop*, Ottawa, ON.

C.96. Doiron, M., G. Gauthier, & E. Lévesque. 2010. Impacts of climate change on a High Arctic herbivore: The case of the Greater Snow Goose. *IPY Canada Early Results Workshop*, Ottawa, ON.

C.95. Therrien, J.-F., G. Gauthier, J. Bêty D. Reid and F. Doyle. 2010. Long-distance movements of two avian predators, the Snowy Owl and Long-tailed Jaeger, tracked via satellite. *IPY Canada Early Results Workshop*, Ottawa, ON.

C.94. Reid, D., C.J. Krebs, G. Gauthier, A. Kenney, S. Gilbert, E. Hofer, D. Duchesne, M. Leung & F. Bilodeau. 2010. Snow depth and small mammal winter habitat choice: a tundra fencing experiment. *IPY Canada Early Results Workshop,* Ottawa, ON.

C.93. Lai, S., D. Berteaux & J. Bêty. 2009. From land to sea ice with the arctic fox, following the movements of a terrestrial mammal in the Canadian High Arctic. *Sixth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Victoria, BC.

C.92. Tarroux, A., D. Berteaux & J. Bêty. 2009. Nomades de l'Arctique : Capacité de déplacement à grande échelle chez le renard polaire. *Sixth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Victoria, BC.

C.91. Tarroux, A., D. Berteaux & J. Bêty. 2009. The marine side of a terrestrial mammal : trophic niche and diet specialization in arctic foxes. *Sixth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Victoria, BC.

C.90. Therrien, J.-F., G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2009. The lemming buffet: is there anything left after owls and jaegers have eaten? *Sixth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Victoria, BC.

C.89. Fast, P., C. Redjadj, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2009. Fuelling up before the flight: Assessing the importance of stopover sites in an Arctic migrant using stable isotopes. *Sixth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Victoria, BC.

C.88. Gauthier, G., C. Juillet, J. Bêty & M. Morrissette. 2009. Annual productivity in Greater Snow Geese: which fecundity parameter is the best predictor and why? *Meeting of the International Society of Ecological Modelling*, Quebec city, QC.

C.87. Legagneux, P., G. Gauthier & C.J. Krebs. 2009. Spatial and temporal trophic dynamics of terrestrial arctic ecosystems. *ECOPATH conference*, Vancouver, BC.

C.86. Gauthier, G. 2009. Impact of climate change on arctic terrestrial food webs: examples from the Bylot Island long term study. *Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution Annual Meeting*, Halifax, NS.

C.85. Gauthier, G. & D. Berteaux. 2008. Arctic Wildlife Observatories Linking Vulnerable EcoSystems (ArcticWOLVES): A study of the impact of climate change on tundra food webs. *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.84. Gauthier, G. & M.C. Cadieux. 2008. Impact of climate change on arctic terrestrial food webs: examples from the Bylot Island long term study. *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.83. Doiron, M., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2008. Plant-herbivore interactions and climate change: The Case of the Greater Snow Goose. *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.82. Therrien, J.-F., G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2008. Reproductive success and long-distance movements of Snowy Owls: is this top arctic predator vulnerable to climate change? *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.81. Valiquette, M.A. & G. Gauthier. 2008. Numerical and functional responses of a generalist avian predator, the glaucous gull, to variations in lemming abundance in the Arctic. *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.80. Juillet, C., M. Doiron, G. Gauthier & M.C. Cadieux. 2008. Importance of local and regional climatic effects on the reproduction of a migratory species, the Greater Snow Goose. *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.79. Côté, G., R. Pienitz, G. Gauthier, D. Muir & B. Wolfe. 2008. Impacts of present-day and past animal populations on the nutrient and contamination status of freshwater lakes on Bylot Island, Nunavut (Canada). *Arctic Change Conference*, Quebec City, QC.

C.78. Pouliot, R., L. Rochefort, M. Marchand-Roy & G. Gauthier. 2008. Polygon fens and trophic interactions: 15 years of research on Bylot Island. 4th International Meeting on the Biology of Sphagnum, Juneau, Alaska.

C.77. Gauthier, G. & D. Berteaux. 2008. ArcticWOLVES: a study of the tundra food web. *International IPY conference on the Dynamics of Lemmings and Arctic foxes in the Circumpolar Tundra*, Salekhard, Russie.

C.76. Berteaux, D. & Gauthier, G. 2008. Dynamics of lemmings and arctic foxes on Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada. *International IPY conference on the Dynamics of Lemmings and Arctic foxes in the Circumpolar Tundra,* Salekhard, Russie.

C.75. Duchesne, D., G. Gauthier & D. Berteaux. 2007. Characterization of the winter environment of lemmings in relation to the snow cover in the Arctic. *Fourth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Collingwood, ON.

C.74. Doiron, M., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2007. Impacts of climate change on plant-herbivore interactions in the High Arctic. *Fourth ArcticNet Scientific Meeting*, Collingwood, ON.

C.73. Juillet, C., G. Gauthier, R. Pradel & Rémi Choquet. 2007. Use of mixture of information models to evaluate the effect of special conservation measures on survival in a hunted species, the Greater Snow Goose. *EURING-2007 meeting*, Otago, New Zealand.

C.72. Gauthier, G., K. Hobson & J. Bêty. 2006. Diet change inferred from stable-isotopes in spring-staging Greater Snow Geese. *XXIVth International Ornithological Congress*, Hamburg, Germany.

C.71. Gauthier, G. 2006. Application of capture-recapture methods to demographic analyses of bird populations: case studies with an emphasis on multistate models. Colloque *Capture 2006*, Université Laval, Québec, QC.

C.70. Dickey, M.-H. & G. Gauthier. 2005. Effect of climate variables on the phenology and reproductive success of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*). *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, NV.

C.69. Lecomte, N., G. Gauthier, L. Bernatchez & J.-F. Giroux. 2005. Population structure of a Greater Snow Goose colony. *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, NV.

C.68. Gauthier, G., A.M. Calvert & E.T. Reed. 2005. Impacts of special conservation measures on demographic parameters in Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*). *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, NV.

C.67. Mainguy, J., G. Gauthier, J.-F. Giroux & J. Bêty. 2005. Long distance brood movements in Greater Snow Geese : effects on goslings growth and survival. *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, NV.

C.66. Ouellet, N., J. Larochelle & G. Gauthier. 2005. Effect of locomotion on growth in Greater Snow Goose goslings (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*). *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, NV.

C.65. Lecomte, N., G. Gauthier & J.-F. Giroux. 2005. Habitat effects on nest predation risks : the case of the Greater Snow Goose. *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference,* Reno, NV.

C.64. Audet, B., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2005. Feeding ecology of Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) goslings in upland tundra on Bylot Island, Nunavut. *Eleventh North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Reno, Nevada.

C.63. Bêty, J., J.-F. Giroux, & G. Gauthier. 2004 Individual variation in timing of migration : causes and reproductive consequences in greater snow geese. *122nd American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Québec, Canada.

C.62. Calvert, A.M. & G. Gauthier. 2004. Exceptional conservation measures: how have they affected survival and hunting mortality in greater snow geese. *122nd American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Québec, Canada.

C.61. Audet, B., G. Gauthier & E. Lévesque. 2004. Feeding ecology of Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) goslings in upland tundra on Bylot Island, Nunavut. *122nd American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Québec, Canada.

C.60. Lecomte, N., G. Gauthier & J.F. Giroux. 2004. Habitat effects on nest predation risks: the case of the Greater Snow Goose. *122nd American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Québec, Canada.

C.59. Gauthier, G., J.-F. Giroux, A. Reed, A. Béchet & L. Bélanger. 2004. Interactions between land use, habitat use and population increase in greater snow geese: what are the consequences for natural wetlands? Intecol 7th Interational Wetlands conference, Utrecth, Netherlands.

C.58. Giroux, J.-F., G. Gauthier, A. Béchet, M. Féret, J. Mainguy, J. Bêty & V. Lemoine. 2003. Controling overabundant bird populations: the case of the greater snow goose. Third International Wildlife Management Congress, 1-5 December 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand.

C.57. Gauthier, G. & J.D. Lebreton. 2003. Population models in Greater Snow Geese: a comparison of different approaches. *EURING-2003 meeting*, Radolfzell, Germany.

C.56. Reed, E., G. Gauthier & J.-F. Giroux. 2003. Effects of spring conditions on breeding propensity of greater snow goose females. *EURING-2003 meeting*, Radolfzell, Germany.

C.55. Calvert, A.M. & G. Gauthier. 2003. Applying band recovery models to an evaluation of the demographic impacts of exceptional conservation measures. *EURING-2003 meeting*, Radolfzell, Germany.

C.54. Gauthier, G., J. Bêty, J.-F. Giroux & L. Rochefort. 2003. Trophic interactions in a High Arctic Snow Goose colony. *Annual Meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*, Toronto, ON.

C.53. Fournier, F., G. Gauthier & J. Larochelle. 2003. The effect of food quality on developmental plasticity and digestive efficiency in Greater Snow Goose goslings. *Annual Meeting of the Society of integrative and comparative biology*, Toronto, ON.

C.52. Gauthier, G. 2002. Are Greater Snow Geese overabundant? A review of population Dynamics and management actions on this population in North America. *7th Annual Meeting of the Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International*, El Rocio, Spain.

C.51. Gauthier, G., F. Fournier & J. Larochelle. 2002. The effect of environmental conditions on early growth in geese. *XXIIIrd International Ornithological Congress*, Beijing, China

C.50. Gauthier, G., J.-F. Giroux & L. Rochefort. 2002. The impact of goose grazing on Arctic and temperate wetlands. *XXIIIrd International Ornithological Congress*, Beijing, China.

C.49. Bêty, J., G. Gauthier, E. Korpimäki & J.-F. Giroux. 2001. Shared predators and indirect trophic interactions: lemming cycles and arctic-nesting geese. *119th American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Seattle, WA.

C.48. Bourguelat, G., G. Gauthier & R. Pradel. 2001. New analytical tools to study stopover length in birds : what can we learn from the greater snow goose example? *119th American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, Seattle, WA.

C.47. Gauthier, G. 2001. The effects of management actions on populations: greater snow goose. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.46. Gauthier, G. & J.D. Lebreton. 2001. Population models in greater snow geese: a comparison of different approaches. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.45. Gauthier, G., K. Hobson & J. Bêty. 2001. The role of nutrient reserves in egg formation in greater snow geese: a reply to Ankney (1995). *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.44. Mainguy, J., J. Bêty & G. Gauthier. 2001. Is body condition of laying greater snow geese affected by the Québec spring conservation hunt? *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.43. Bêty, J., G. Gauthier, E. Korpimäki & J.-F. Giroux. 2001. Cyclic lemmings and greater snow geese: direct observations of an indirect trophic interaction. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.42. Reed, E. & G. Gauthier. 2001. The costs of raising a family in greater snow geese *Chen caerulescens atlantica*. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.41. Righi, M. & G. Gauthier. 2001. Abundance and distribution of intestinal helminths in greater snow geese on the breeding colony, and during their fall and spring migration. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.40. Renaud, M., G. Gauthier & J. Larochelle. 2001. Energetic cost of thermoregulation for greater snow goose goslings growing in a natural environment. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.39. Féret M., G. Gauthier, J.-F. Giroux & K. Hobson. 2001. Impact of spring conservation hunt on nutrient storage of greater snow geese staging in Québec. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.38. Bourguelat, G., G. Gauthier & R. Pradel. 2001. Estimation of the fall stopover length of the greater snow goose in the St. Lawrence estuary using capture-recapture methods. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.37. Béchet, A. J.-F. Giroux & G. Gauthier. 2001. Impact of a spring hunt on the regional movements of staging greater snow geese. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.36. Demers, F. J.-F. Giroux, G. Gauthier & J. Bêty. 2001. Effect of collar-attached transmitters on pair bond, breeding success and behavior of greater snow geese. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.35. Otis, P., J. Larochelle & G. Gauthier. 2001. Energy cost of locomotion in greater snow goose goslings. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.34. Duclos, I., E. Lévesque & L. Rochefort. 2001. Mesic habitats of the Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) on Bylot Island (Nunavut): characterization and feeding potential. *Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Québec, QC.

C.33. Gauthier, G., R. Pradel, S. Menu & J.D. Lebreton. 2000. Modelling seasonal survival rate of greater snow geese in presence of trap-dependence. *EURING-2000 meeting*, Point Reyes, CA.

C.32. Gauthier, G., R. Pradel, S. Menu & J.D. Lebreton. 2000. Seasonal variations in survival rate of a migratory and hunted species, the greater snow goose. *118th American Ornithologist Union Meeting*, St. John's, NF.

C.31. Gauthier, G., L. Rochefort, & A. Reed. 2000. Short- and long-term impact of snow goose herbivory on wetland ecosystems of Bylot Island. *Weltand-2000 international meeting*, Quebec city, QC.

C.30. Lévesque, E., C. Pineau, L. Rochefort & G. Gauthier. 1999. Combined influence of grazing and warming in a high arctic wet meadow. Abstract in *Plant response to climate change*, R.D. Hollister (ed), Proceedings from the *9th International Tundra Experiment Meeting*, East Lansing, MI.

C.29. Bêty, J, G. Gauthier & J.-F. Giroux. 1998. Factors affecting nesting success in greater snow geese: the interplay between nest density, lemming abundance and association with snowy owls. *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.28. Massé, H., L. Rochefort & G. Gauthier. 1998. Estimating the carrying capacity of wetland habitats used by breeding greater snow geese on Bylot island (N.W.T, Canada). *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.27. Demers, F., J.-F. Giroux & G. Gauthier. 1998. How faithful to their mate are radio-marked greater snow geese? *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.26. Giroux, J.-F., F. Blouin, J. Ferron, G. Gauthier & J. Doucet. 1998. The fall migration of greater snow geese tracked by satellite. *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.25. Menu S., G. Gauthier & A. Reed. 1998. Survival of young greater snow geese during the fall migration. *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.24. Poussart, C., G. Gauthier & J. Larochelle. 1998. Incubation behavior of greater snow geese in relation to weather conditions. *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.23. Gauthier, G. 1998. The role of food and timing of nesting in greater snow goose reproduction. *Ninth North American Arctic Goose Conference*, Victoria, BC.

C.22. Gauthier, G. 1997. Population regulation in Greater Snow Geese. *Symposium on how to manage thriving goose populations*, Zwolle, Netherlands.

C.21. Reed, A. & G. Gauthier. 1997. Changes in demographic and physical parameters of greater snow geese during an extended population growth phase. *Symposium on Over-abundant goose population: an emerging challenge in wildlife conservation, Wildlife Society 4th annual conference,* Snowmass, Colorado.
C.20. Gauthier, G. 1997. The use of capture-recapture models to estimate survival and movements in Greater Snow Geese *Session on biostatistics and survey methods in wildlife management, Annual meeting of the statistical society of Canada,* Fredericton, New-Brunswick.
C.19. Menu, S., G. Gauthier, A. Reed & J. Hestbeck. 1997. Effects of neck band on the survival of adult female greater snow geese. *Large-scale studies of marked birds, EURING 97,* Norwich, United Kingdom.
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