

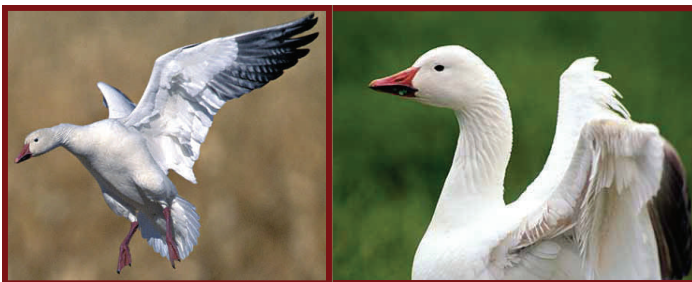


SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH)

Chen caerulescens



The Snow Goose is a medium-sized goose that has two color forms. The white morph is entirely white except for its black wing-tips. The blue morph has a bluish-gray body with a white head and a white tail. Both color morphs have a pink bill with a black “grin patch” where the upper and lower bills meet. The legs are also pink. This species migrates in large flocks from breeding areas in the far north to southern wintering areas in wetlands and along the coasts. Family units persist beyond the breeding season, as parents stay with their offspring through the first winter. Families travel together on both the southbound and northbound migrations. Family groups can often be readily identified in migrating and wintering flocks.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The Snow Goose is 27 to 33 inches in length, with a wingspan of about 54 inches.

WEIGHT

The weight of a Snow Goose can range from 3.5 to 7 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The Snow Goose eats aquatic plants, grasses, and grains.

HABITAT

During the breeding season, the Snow Goose is found in colonies in tundra areas of the far north. During the winter it can be found in coastal marshes, freshwater marshes, and agricultural fields.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Snow Goose breeds in northern Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. It winters primarily in coastal areas of the United States.

FUN FACT

The dark color of the blue morph Snow Goose is controlled by a single gene, with dark being partially dominant over white. If a dark goose mates with a white goose, the offspring will all be dark. If two white geese mate, they will only have white offspring. If two dark geese mate, they will have mostly dark offspring.