

## *Taverner's Goose (Taverner's)*

### **Description**

- Lighter in color than the cackler, lesser, dusky, and Vancouver geese, often appearing silvery.
- Continuous white cheek patch under chin.
- Culmen length between 32 mm and 40 mm
- Smaller than the dusky, Vancouver and western. About the same size as the lesser and larger than the cackler.
- In flight the Taverner's tends to have narrower wings than the dusky.



Figure 29: Taverner's goose.



Figure 30: Taverner's geese; notice the silver color breast.



Figure 31: A Taverner's goose (top) with two cackling geese; the silvery color of the Taverner's breast can be seen here.



*Figure 32: Group of Taverner's geese; notice that features, including bill and neck, are stubby but slightly larger than cackler.*



*Figure 33: Taverner's geese; notice light breast color with significant color variation between neck and breast.*



*Figure 34: Taverner's geese that are dark, but are still lighter and smaller than dusky Canada geese.*



*Figure 35: Typical Taverner's geese; notice the light breast color that contrasts sharply with the neck.*



*Figure 36: Taverner's goose in flight; notice narrow wings, which make the tail appear longer.*



*Figure 37: Taverner's goose in flight; notice the narrow wings and body shape.*



Figure 38: Taverner's geese in flight; notice color variations and longer tail.



Figure 39: Taverner's geese in bright light, which make them appear nearly white.



Figure 40: A flock of Taverner's geese; notice light breast color, even in low light.



Figure 41: A flock of Taverner's geese; notice light breast color, which contrasts sharply with neck color.

## Distribution

Taverner's geese nest throughout western Alaska from the arctic to the Yukon River delta (Figure 42). Primary wintering areas in the flyway include the Willamette Valley and lower Columbia River region.



Figure 42: Nesting areas and migration route for Taverner's geese.

## **Behavior**

Taverner's geese often fly in family groups or mixed into groups of other subspecies, but frequently occur in large flocks. They roost and rest on water and feed in open fields, and are among the most difficult geese to lure with decoys. The recent emphasis on hunting cackling geese has shifted harvest away from Taverner's geese, because cacklers are more readily identified by most hunters.

## **Management**

The Taverner's population is considered to be stable, although accurate wintering counts are not possible. This subspecies is also the least known of the geese found in this area. Alaskan biologists have found that the Taverner's geese are difficult to monitor or band because their breeding distribution is so large. This is one of the subspecies managers would like hunters to target.

## **Future**

The future is considered bright for the Taverner's goose and its population is considered to be stable.