- 1 Canada geese were introduced to the UK in St James's Park, London, in the 17th century. Today, the population is over 150,000 birds. Numbers have doubled since 1984.
- 2 Canada geese have a degree of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to kill, injure, damage or remove their nests without a licence.
- As a non-native introduced breeding species, Canada geese do not have a conservation status in the UK.
- In the wild they live 10 to 25 years and are prolific breeders. They are now resident in western Europe and, for reasons that remain obscure, their numbers have started increasing very fast.
- Canada geese are on a list of 100 invasive species posing a serious threat to biodiversity in Europe. (A species is regarded as invasive if it has been introduced to an area where it did not previously occur naturally and becomes capable of establishing a breeding population in the new location. An invasive species thrives in its new environment and negatively influences the ecology and biodiversity of that ecosystem.)
- 6 Canada geese start breeding from two to three years old. They can lay eggs one every one or two days in the early spring and then incubate a brood which will hatch after 30 days.
- 7 Broods are 5-10 eggs on average but can be as many as 17.
- The birds using Pavilion Gardens generally roost on the moors, Errwood Reservoir, Combs reservoir and other stretches of water. (One goose roosted onsite this year.)
- 9 Canada geese produce around a kilo of poo each a day. 75% of that is water. (They don't wee separately.)
- Running water dissipates the risk of nutrient build up but the lakes as partially contained bodies of water will concentrate nutrients.
- Geese prefer short grass and river banks that they can walk in an out of but will adapt, cropping longer grass and paddling down banks.
- From the moors they can see long distances and fly fast so will seek out good spots, and travel a fair distance. Numbers will increase where there is supplementary feeding or forage on offer.
- Canadas are edible but evidently don't taste good as some commercial enterprise would have built business as per estates which sell venison from culled deer if there was money in it.
- 14 People like to feed wild creatures, and encourage children to offer food.
- 15 Geese like to land and take-off from water. On land they walk.
- 16 Canada geese in Pavilion Gardens leave the daisies. Other plants, when fully grown, are not to their taste.
- Goose poo makes good manure but needs to be matured or the high nitrogen content will burn plants.