Many species face uncertainties about foraging patch quality in their decision-making processes. White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) foraging on harvest remains of rice in Japan represent a typical example. The geese are likely to be uncertain about the distribution of poorly visible rice grains among straw in the harvested fields (photos 1 and 2), while seasonal variations in the flock sizes of geese seem to be determined by the trade-off between the costs and benefits of group foraging (photo 3), which cannot be explained by existing social foraging models. We developed a new foraging model for incompletely informed foragers that benefit from foraging in groups, where expected gain rates were used for decision making on diet choice, patch departure, and flock joining. This model agreed most
closely with the observed patterns, both in the spatial distribution and fat deposition parameters of geese, compared to existing models. Therefore, we concluded that these White-fronted Geese seem to use expected gain rates for decision making with incomplete information on foraging patch quality.

The photographs are associated with the article by Tatsuya Amano, Katsumi Ushiyama, Sachiko Moriguchi, Go Fujita, and Hiroyoshi Higuchi, "Decision-making rules in group foragers with incomplete information on patch quality: a test with White-fronted Geese using an individual-based model," which is tentatively scheduled to appear in *Ecology* 87(11), November 2006.