



UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: August Mirabella
Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454
augustmirabella@aol.com
215-368-0594

Species: Pink-footed Goose-one adult

Observers: Found by: Devich Farbotnik 1/27, A. Mirabella 2/2

Seen by: Dave Wilton was with DF on 1/27. AM alone on 2/2. Many were called on both dates to observe the bird.

Date Seen: 1/27/02-2/2/02 **Time:** PM both dates

Where Observed: 1/27- Eagle Rd., Upper Makefield Twp. & 2/2- nearby Ridge Rd., Buckingham Twp., Bucks Co.

Conditions: For 2/2 only. Afternoon bright light with sun at my back. Seen with Zeiss 7X42 Bins & Leica APO77 Scope at approximately 150-200 feet.

Behavior & Habitat: It was with a large flock of Canada Geese (approx. 2000) Thousands of geese were in the general area. It was very wary as were the Canadas. It was seen feeding actively in an area of hundreds of acres of farm fields. I believe the original site is currently being used as a sod farm but was weedy and the second site was also weedy with soybean stubble, I think.

Description: The bird was a Pink-footed in adult plumage. No feather wear was noted, there were no leg bands, and the bird and the goose flock were very alert to potential danger. Compared to the Canadas, the bird was overall slightly smaller, shorter necked, rounder headed, and had a shorter stubby bill. The legs were bright pink (bubblegum pink as someone else described it). The head was dark brown. The neck appeared lighter brown overall partially due to the light and dark, roughly vertical striations concentrated mostly on the side and front. The lower neck blended in with the buffy to light brown upper breast. The rest of the dark areas of plumage were of varying gray tones contrasting with the brown head and neck. The flanks became progressively darker toward the rear. The rear flank feathers had lighter edges. A white border formed where the wings folded into the flanks. The tail was dark with a white band at the tip. When sitting with its wings drooping, the white upper tail coverts were white. The rear belly, vent, and under tail coverts were also clean white. The back was overall medium gray or light gray, depending on how the sun hit it, with whitish rear feather edges giving a pretty barred pattern. The secondary and primary flight feathers were much darker with white edges. The stubby bill had a black tip and lighter gray/black base. The pink band or saddle on the bill between the tip and the base was clearly visible.

Similar Species Comparison: Clearly pink legs, gray back, pink bill band on short stubby bill, and round all brown head eliminate the Bean Goose which has orange/yellow legs, brown back, yellow bill band on long bill with longer looking head, and small

narrow white line around base of bill. Graylag Goose can be eliminated by larger size and bulk alone plus large orange bill. Greater and Lesser White-fronted have the large white band around the base of the bill, black bands on breast, orange legs, and orange or pink bills. The juvenile White-fronted would lack the black breast markings but still have bills and legs with more overall yellowish/pinkish tones. Overall plumage would be more uniform than Pink-footed.

Previous Experience: I saw the adult Pink-footed at Oley, PA.

Positive ID: Yes-matches all critical characteristics per field guides.

References during ID: F.G. to the Birds of NA-Nat. Geo. Soc. 2nd Ed.

Waterfowl An ID guide to ducks, geese, and swans of the world by
Madge & Burn

References after ID: Above plus Birds of Europe by Betel Bruun & my video taken 2/2.

Other Documentation: Photo by Alan Brady attached

PO Box 103 Welcome, PA. 18940

215-598-7856

BirderBrady@aol.com

Video by Devich Farbotnik to be sent directly to PORC

610-504-1715

0341579@storm.bucks.edu

Note: If video is not received in time for review, please contact me as I have video, also

Date of report: 4/29/02 from notes & video of 2/2.

Signature of Observer:

August W. J. J. J. J.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Pink-footed Goose (Anser brachyrhynchus)

Date of Sighting: 27 January 2002 to 2 February 2002

Location: BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik, Alan Brady, August Mirabella, Dave Wilton

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Alan Brady, August Mirabella, D. Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

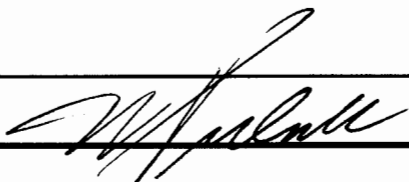
Specimen: No

Recording: ~~No~~ Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 1/18/03