





108-01-2011

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania.

Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 **SEX(ES)** ?

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): Probably adult due to bright pink legs vs. light orange on immature.

DATE OF OBSERVATION 11/28/2011 - 12/1/2011 **TIME** 12:30 PM-4:30 PM on 11/28; before 8 AM 11/30 & 12/1

LOCATION (city, borough, township) New Britain Twp. Bucks Co.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Peace Valley Park 11/28; Pine Run Lake 11/28-12/1

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name August Mirabella

Address 1443 Wheaton Lane

City North Wales State PA ZIP 19454

e-mail (optional) augustmirabella@aol.com phone (optional) 215-368-0594

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Richard Fagan was with me when I found it at Peace Valley and followed me to Pine Run, but could not identify it even after I told him what it was.

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details Lakes. Seen once on mowed weedy edge of lake.

DISTANCE TO BIRD 125 ft. to 150 yds. _____

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Various conditions, some favorable for viewing.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Zeiss 7x42 & Leica APO Trinovid 77

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): It has a short bill, bright pink in the middle with a black base and tip, and pink feet. The body is mid grey-brown, the head and neck a richer, darker brown, the rump and vent white, and the tail grey with a broad white tip. The upper wing-coverts are of a somewhat similar pale bluish-grey as in the [Greylag Goose](#), and the flight feathers blackish-grey. The species is most closely related to the [Bean Goose](#) *Anser fabalis* (having even been treated as a [subspecies](#) of it at times in the past), sharing a similar black-and-coloured pattern bill, but differing in having pink on the bill and legs where the Bean Goose is orange, and in the paler, greyer plumage tones. It is similar in size to the small *rossicus* subspecies of Bean Goose, but distinctly smaller than the nominate subspecies *fabalis*. It produces a medley of high-pitched honking calls, being particularly vocal in flight, with large skeins being almost deafening.

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 smaller, shorter necked, smaller rounder headed, and had a shorter stubby bill. The stubby bill had a black tip and lighter gray/black base. The pink (bubblegum) band or saddle on the bill between the tip and the base was clearly visible. The legs were bright bubblegum pink. The head was dark brown. The neck appeared lighter brown overall. The lower neck blended in with the buffy to light brown upper breast. The back was brown and gray/brown with light feather edges. The wings in flight showed dark secondaries and primaries on top. The breast and belly was light tan, going to white lower belly,

undertail coverts, and vent area. The rear flanks were darker brown than the belly or forward flanks. The rear flank feathers had lighter edges. A white border formed where the wings folded into the flanks. The tail had a narrow white tip, then a broader black band, and finally white upper tail coverts.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) It was preening almost continuously on 11/28 including splashing around in the water and taking short splashing flights. On other days, the bird was also observed to be preening excessively (Tom Johnson) but no apparent reason could be determined. Other two times I saw it was just floating in the mob of geese. It was wary as were the other geese. At Peace Valley the whole goose flock flushed due to a kayak that really wasn't that close. At Pine Run, it moved away in the water with the flock as we walked at some distance from the water. As birders got closer to water's edge on other days, they just moved away to far side of lake.

VOCALIZATIONS NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph YES –Attached & More pix are at <http://www.howardsview.com/Pink-footedGoose/Pink-footedGoose.html>

Video recording _____ **Audio recording** _____ **Drawing** _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name August Mirabella

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) Pretty similar to Bean Goose but leg color is orange and bird is significantly bigger as is head and bill. Immature Greater-White-fronted Goose would have pale yellow or pick bill and pale pink or orange legs I think. Graylag Goose is bulky among other things.

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES Have seen before twice in PA.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) Yes. All the field marks were seen that distinguished this from other goose species.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation NONE

After observation Wikipedia, National Geographic Guide, RSPB web-site

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER August Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus

Date of Sighting: 28 November 2011 to 1 December 2011

County : BUCKS

Location : PEACE VALLEY PARK/PINE RUN LAKE

Observer(s): August Mirabella m.obs

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: ~~No~~ YES

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
R. Koury	X							
D. Weber	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date:

4/25/12