

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
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

110-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Greater White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons)
Subspecies (if known) It was either from the Taiga or Tundra population

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

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): The bird was an adult.

DATE OF OBSERVATION 11/26/03 **TIME** 8:31 a.m.

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Brush Valley Township Indiana County

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Yellow Creek State Park

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Ross Gallardy
Address 306 Kim Lane
City Windber State PA ZIP 15963
e-mail (optional) Hossross7@aol.com phone (optional) (814) 266-5967

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

None

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Took off from beach at Yellow Creek. Flew over the lake to the Northeast.

DISTANCE TO BIRD first seen at about 150 yards. I continued to watch it until it was out of view.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) The sun was mostly behind me which gave me very good lighting.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Orion Jx66 spotting scope with a 20-60 mm eye piece.

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): The Greater White-fronted Goose was about the same size as the Canadas that it was with. It might have been a little smaller but not much. The first thing I noticed about it was that it had a brown neck and head. After that I noticed that it had a pale colored bill. As it continued to fly with the group of Canadas I could see the upper wing was much grayer than that of a Canada's Goose wing. I also saw a few glimpses of the orange legs and feet. The last field mark I saw on it was when it and the Canada Geese started flying more away from me. When they did that I could see the the edge of the Greater White-fronted Goose's tail was white instead of black like the Canada's tails.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The whole time I observed the bird it was flying. It was in a flock of about 30 Canada Geese. It was in about the middle of the flock. There was still 140 Canada Geese on the ground and about 110 more Canada Geese that flew off before the group with the Greater White-fronted Goose. All the geese headed toward the North east after flying off the lake. I think they were probably heading off to some field to feed.

VOCALIZATIONS

I did not hear it call. It might have been calling but I couldn't hear it because there were alot of Canada Geese calling.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

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) The brown neck and head of the Greater White-fronted Goose eliminated all common occurring species of North American geese. The pale bill also eliminated Canada and Brant. The orange legs eliminated Pink-footed Goose. I eliminated Graylag and other farm yard geese because the bird I saw was not chunky like farm yard geese. It also could fly very well. This is how I came to the conclusion that the bird I saw was a Greater white-fronted goose.

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

The day that I saw the Greater White-fronted Goose the whole large flock consisted of around 280 Canada Geese, 1 Tundra Swan and the Greater White-fronted Goose. The next day I arrived at Yellow Lake to see if it was back. This time there was only 29 Canada Geese. I believe that the day I saw the Greater White-fronted Goose it was with a large group of migratory birds and weren't locals that will stay all winter. This also helps to determine that it wasn't a farm yard goose.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I have had no experience with Greater White-fronted Geese before. I have had tons of experience with the Canada Geese that I was with.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

Yes, I am positive of my identification. I feel that I observed the bird long enough and with powerful optics to see the field marks that are needed to make the ID.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation None

After observation Sibley's Guide to Birds and National Geographic Guide to birds of N.A. 3rd edition

DATE OF THIS REPORT: November 26th 2003

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Ross Gallary

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

Date of Sighting: 26 November 2003 to 26 November 2003

Location: YELLOW CREEK STATE PARK

County : INDIANA

Observer(s): Ross Gallardy

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Ross Gallardy

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/04