

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

**2459 Hammertown Road
Narvon, Pennsylvania 17555-9726**

28 June 1995

August Mirabella
1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear August,

Thank you for submitting details on the Barnacle Goose you saw at Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County on 13 March 1994 to P.O.R.C. After careful review and much debate, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The identity of the bird is not in question, but its origin is. The two schools of thought on the committee presented good arguments for both acceptance and rejection. Four members thought that all Barnacle Geese should be treated as wild unless proven otherwise. The other three members felt that even though the birds associated with "Greenland" Greater White-fronted Geese, it did not automatically rule out the possibility that it was a n escape, especially in light of the recent article in *Birding* by Kenn Kaufman, in which he states that races of Greater White-fronted Geese cannot be determined by bill color. Debate as to origin of exotic waterfowl is one that is not easily solved. Unfortunately, six votes are needed for acceptance by the committee.

We hope this does not discourage you from sending documentation on any rare birds you find in the future.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 115-01-1994

Montgomery

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

115-01-1994

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

CBC name _____ CBC date 3/28/94 Compiler _____

Observer writing this account and date AUGUST MIRABELLA 1443 WHEATON LN, N. WALES, PA 19454

SPECIES BARNACLE GOOSE NUMBER, AGE, SEX 1

Distance from bird(s) 250-300' Relative size of bird Smaller than Canada Geese & Gr. White-fronted

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.) Geese (4) that were near by.

White face including forehead, above, behind & below the eyes. Crown black.

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) Dark eye.

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES Dark

LEGS & FEET Dark - legs had no USFWS bands

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.) Black nape extending down the neck, lighter grayish back with dark barring, white uppertail coverts and black tail.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.) Throat white. Neck black including breast. Clean break between black breast & very light sides & white belly. White undertail coverts.

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.) Black tail

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.) Did not see in flight. Grayish with barring in folded position

VOCALIZATION Not noted

BEHAVIOR Sleeping on ice, walking on ice, swimming. Was first seen sleeping on ice facing us. Black front attracted our attention. It was travelling with four Gr. White-fronted Geese (1 adult, 3 Sub-adult) and thousands of Canada Geese. Obviously part of a wild migratory flock of geese. It stayed close to the white-fronteds.

Date of observation 3/13/94 Time 2:00pm Weather Calm, mild 50° Sky cover Clear

Duration of observation 2 hours Bird - Sun orientation Direct sunlight. Sun at our backs

Exact location Green Lane Reservoir - Church Rd. Hanover Twp. Montgomery Co. PA.

Habitat Shallow lake - mostly frozen Other observers JUDITH MIRABELLA, GARY FREED, GEORGE FRANCHIOS,

Row Grubb, Steve Farbotnik, etc. Optical equipment Zeiss 7x42B, Swift 15-60X zoom

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Bird was seen by many up until 3/17. This was a text book (field guide) perfect bird seen by many very competent & experienced birders.

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE AN EXCELLENT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

Date of Sighting: 13 March 1994 to 17 March 1994

Location: GREEN LANE RESERVOIR

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella					X			
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes					X			
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner					X			
TOTALS			4		3			
DECISION					X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95

Record No.: 115-01-1994

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

Date of Sighting: 13 March 1994 to 17 March 1994

Location: GREEN LANE RESERVOIR

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella					X			
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner					X			
TOTALS			5		2			
DECISION								

Comments: Send for second Round.

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Kane

Date:

9-25-94