24 April, 1999

Mark A. McConaughy
3787-K Logans Ferry Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-3910

Dear Mark,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Barnacle Goose you saw at Middle Creek WMA on 15 March, 1997. After careful review we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that the slide was inadequate for a definite determination to be made; no written description was received by us. Even if the photograph were definitive, there would still be the problem of the origin of this bird. This does not mean of course that the bird was not a "wild" Barnacle Goose, merely that the details did not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 115-01-1997

115-01-1997

THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

4 April 1997

Nick Pulcinella
Apt. 6
201 Elm Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Dear Nick:

I have enclosed some slides, a drawing and a videotape to help document some of the reports I have Emailed to you. There is a slide of a Ross' Goose, the Ross' being in the center of the frame and the closest bird. It is at the edge of some brush that is in the foreground. This shot is a good profile of the bird (well, as good as I was able to shoot) and you can compare the bill size of this bird to the surrounding Snow Geese. The slide of the Barnacle Goose is not a real good one for ID purposes, but it is the only shot that shows any markings of the batch I took. The Barnacle Goose is about 3 birds back into the flock in the center of the photo. It is heading toward the camera on a diagonal. You can see a dark bird there with white flanks and a white notch going up in front of the wing. That is the Barnacle Goose.

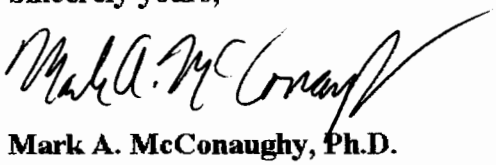
I also provided my 4 clearest shots of the Pink-footed Goose from Oley. The two closer views were shot with the 500mm lens and a 2x extender. Most of those shots still came out blurry due to wind (1/60th sec exposure, too) even though I had it mounted on a tripod. The two I provided were the best of the batch for showing bill markings and legs, etc. The 2 other slides were shot with the 500mm only and gives views of both sides of the bird while it is in the water. The last section of the videotape also shows this bird as it was swimming around and preening. The videotape does not provide real good resolution of the bird, but occasionally, it does flap its wings and you can pick up wing markings.

The videotape starts with two copies of the Sandhill Crane from Middle Creek. The segment starts with me first getting on some Tundra Swan and then a short (about 15 seconds) of the Sandhill in flight. There is some Snow Geese footage at the end of these segments, but I cut that off. After the Sandhill there is a long, and unfortunately, less than productive section that isn't part of the rare bird sightings. It is a segment where I was trying to tape American Woodcock and record their song and noises during mating flights. Most of the segment only shows dark woods and sky, but you can hear them faintly. After this is the section of the Pink-footed Goose.

You can Email me (or whatever) if you have any questions about this material or my interpretations.

Third and North Streets, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1026
(717) 787-4980

Sincerely yours,



Mark A. McConaughy, Ph.D.
Section of Archaeology
The State Museum of Pennsylvania FAX:
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

Internet: an535@yfn2.ysu.edu
Work: (717) 783-2665
(717) 783-1073

Record No.: 115-01-1997

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis)

Date of Sighting: 15 March 1997 to 15 March 1997
Location: MIDDLE CREEK WMA
County: LANCASTER
Observer(s): Mark McConaughy
Date of Submission: 1997
Submitted by: Mark McConaughy
Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
P. Schwalbe	X							
K. Parkes					X			
R. Ickes					X			
P. Hess								X
J. McWilliams					X			
T. Floyd						X		
TOTALS	1			1	3	1		1
DECISION					X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): F. C. Haas Date: 4-19-99