

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-03-01 12:46:17
Observer's Name	Ian Gardner
E-mail	gardnie07@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Species (Common Name)	Barnacle Goose
Species (Scientific Name)	Branta leucopsis
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	12-03-2018 12:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50420040
County	Schuylkill
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Pine Grove
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Pine Grove Township Recreation Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.552561, -76.413617
Habitat	Open mowed grass field and small man-made pond
Distance to bird	50 feet
Viewing conditions	Great views. Skies were partly cloudy with no precipitation or wind.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 8.5x40 binoculars
Description	Small goose compared to surrounding flock of Canada Geese. Similar size and proportions to a Cackling Goose. Stubby bill, small head, small body. Black bill and lores with prominent white face surrounding the dark eye. Black neck extending over the top of the head and down through the breast. Flanks were bright silver, mantle had gray and silver stripes, white under tail coverts and black tail. Black legs.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Very similar behavior to associating Canada Goose flock. Foraging in the open mowed grass field and then walking over to the pond. Barnacle Goose never stood at the edge of the flock, always staying toward the middle and mixed in with other geese.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Similar is size and proportion to Cackling Goose, but plumage is distinctly different. Shares some similar markings to Brant (black neck and breast, silver flanks, white under tail coverts, and black tail, legs, and bill), but silver back and white face eliminate that species.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes. I've seen a handful of this species in the eastern United States. Plumage and size are very distinctive.

During

Sibley App

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[BRNG1.jpg](#)



[BRNG2.jpg](#)



[BRNG3.jpg](#)



[BRNG4.jpg](#)



[BRNG5.jpg](#)

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