

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

Dale Gearhart and Carl Garner
PO Box 155
Shady Grove, PA 17256

Dear Dale and Carl,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Canada (Richardson's) Goose at Green Castle Reservoir in October and November 1997. At present the committee does not accept this subspecies designation as a formal record. As do many state committees, we consider these individuals only as "one of the small races" because of the possibility of Lesser (*parvipes*), Taverner's (*taverneri*), or Cackling (*minima*), all of which may intergrade or overlap in size and other features with Richardson's (*hutchinsii*).

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future. We are particularly interested in continuing to receive photographs and other documentation of these small Canada Geese for their value in future studies of this identification question.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #116a-03-1997

i. 4 TH QUARTER

116A-03 -1997 FRANKLIN COUNTY

Canada Goose (RICHARDSON'S RACE)

DATES: Oct 26, 1997 to Nov 17,
1997

LOCATION: Greencastle Reservoir

OBSERVER: Carl Garner & Dale Gearhart

Bird was only $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as big as
the regular geese; was with a
flock between 67 (low count) and
135 (high count).

If you have any questions or doubt
about the sighting, you can contact
either one of us. Thank you.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Canada (Richardson's) Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*)

26 OCTOBER

Date of Sighting: ~~17 November~~ 1997 to 17 November 1997

Location: GREEN CASTLE RESERVOIR

County: FRANKLIN

Observer(s): Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Carl Garner

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION Yes, PHOTO no SPECIMEN no RECORDING no

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman					X			
T. Floyd								✓
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams				X				
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS				1	5			1
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8/29/00