

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

8 February 2001

Ken Kitson
704 Headquarters Rd.
Ottsville, PA 18942

Dear Ken,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the 3 Canada (Cackling) Geese at Peace Valley Park on 22 November 1997. At present the committee does not accept this and other races as formal subspecific records. As do many state committees, we classify these individuals only as "one of the small races" because of the possibility of Lesser (*parvipes*), Taverner's (*taverneri*), or Richardson's (*hutchinsii*), all of which may intergrade with Cackling (*minima*) -- though the dark breast does indicate the probability of a "good" *minima*.

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 difficult 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-04-1997

116A-04 -1997

Unusual Bird Report

Person submitting data Ken Kitson Date 1/20/98

Address 704 Headquarters Road, Otterville, Pa 15462 Phone 610-842-2968

Observers Ken French, Ken Kitson, et al. Date(s) Seen 11/22/97

How long observed 10 min

Where Observed PEACE Valley

Conditions of observation Sat AM bird walk - first spotted by Ken French -
(Time of day, weather, distance at duck blind - birds about 150' - seen
to bird, optics, etc) with scope, etc.

Behavior & Habitat on water with a White-fronted Goose
(what was the bird doing, and many Canada Geese
what habitat was it in.)

CANADA GOOSE -

Species Cackling goose race Number seen 3

Description
(Describe size, color & pattern above & below, head, bill, wings, tail, sex, age, etc. as needed - use drawings on reverse side if helpful.)
Smaller than White-fronted Goose or other
Canada Geese: near by -
The dark brown went down from the black on the
neck across the breast and on the sides.
White chin strap and white on flank and
under tail coverts like the Canada Goose -

Similar Species vs - Black Brant -
(what similar species might it be and how can they be eliminated from consideration.)
cackling goose had white chin strap (not white on neck)
and had black on the sides

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Canada ^(cackling) ~~(Richardson's)~~ Goose (*Branta canadensis* ^{minima} ~~hutchinsii~~)

Date of Sighting: 22 November 1997 to 22 November 1997

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): Ron French, Ken Kitson

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Ron French, Ken Kitson

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								X
P. Hess						X		
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams				X				
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS			1	1	3	1		1
DECISION					X			

Comments: 4/5/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 5/29/00