

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: August Mirabella
Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454
augustmirabella@aol.com
215-368-0594

116A-01-2002

Species: Small Race Canada Geese (Richardson's)-Qty. 4

Observers: Found by: August Mirabella

Seen by: none

Date Seen: 10/15/02 **Time:** mid day

Where Observed: Peace Valley Park, New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Conditions: Sunny. Seen at 30 ft with Zeiss 7x42 & Leica APO77 Zoom Scope

Behavior & Habitat: Swimming and preening

Description: First, I am sending this because I thought I remembered seeing a request for documentation on Canada Goose races in a recent PA Birds issue. If this is not the case, let me know.

Four small geese with a flock of large Canada Geese flew in and shortly began preening. The color overall was about the same as the large geese. The breasts were pale in contrast with the dark neck as in the larger geese. The length of the body from tail to breast was about two-thirds the larger geese. The neck was much shorter. The head was small and flat topped with the forehead dropping at a sharp angle to the bill. The bill was very stubby and much shorter than the other geese.

Similar Species Comparison: See description

Previous Experience: Seen many times

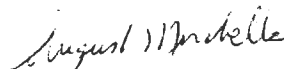
References during ID: Sibley Guide to Birds

References after ID: Sibley Guide to Birds and my videotape.

Other Documentation: Videotape submitted with this report by A. Mirabella

Date of report: 10/22/02

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella



10/24/02 I saw these birds again today at a greater distance in cloudy weather. In comparison to the many other geese they were with, these stood out, not only by size, but in color. The back was paler, giving a more gray look than the brown of the others. The feather edges also seemed to be more prominent resulting in rows of pale edges. Some of the other geese were similar but not as prominent.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Ricahrdson's Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*)

Date of Sighting: 14 October 2002 to 15 October 2002

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

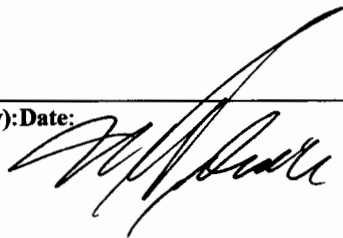
Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
<i>R. W. IT/MT</i>								
G. Armistead	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
B. Leberman								
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: *Sharp- accept as small race*

Signature (Secretary): Date:



2/20/05