

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Robert Hughes

Date of review: 02/28/2020

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: U-O

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation]

The reviewer can't be certain of the wild origin of this bird and as such doesn't feel comfortable accepting the record. Absence of evidence of captivity isn't enough for the reviewer for acceptance. The reviewer would need affirmative and positive evidence of a wild origin of a vagrant Barnacle Goose before accepting it. This evidence could be a band, flag, or other evidence that could be traced to a wild origin in Europe or elsewhere within the natural range of this species.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Davida Kalina

Date of review: 19 February 2019

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: A-E(photos) and A-S(5)

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation]

I am repeating my comments from the 2nd & 3rd circulations:

“All photos clearly support the ID of Barnacle Goose. No submitter mentions the halluces (although the hallux on the left foot can be seen in Photo #8) nor leg bands (although no bands can be seen on the legs in any of the photos).

No submitter saw the bird in flight, although other birders reported on eBird seeing it take flight when it departed the DuPage location for good the next day, 26 February 2019. Assuming the bird that was sighted in Kendall County on 28 February 2019 was the same bird that was in DuPage County, then the bird probably could fly pretty well.

The late-winter sighting date supports wild vagrant status.

I also observed this bird on the morning of 26 February 2019 at the same location in DuPage County. The only information I can add is that it was in the presence of at least 15 Cackling Geese, 2 Snow Geese, and many Canada Geese.

Submitters at the Kendall County location indicate at least 25 CACK, 200 GWFG, and around 2000 CANG were also present there.”

With the recent acceptance of 3 other Barnacle Goose records in IL as precedent, I am again voting to accept this record.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Walter Marcisz

Date of review: 2-27-20

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: U-O

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation]

Despite considerable discussion at the annual IORC meeting on 16 February 2020, the possibility of captive origin has not been conclusively eliminated to my satisfaction. In addition, the fact that Photo #5 (by Bonnie Graham) seems to clearly show a hallux on the bird's left leg, but no hallux is visible on the right leg. The possibility of a missing hallux raises a definite red flag for me. I again vote to reject based on origin.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Adam Sell

Date of review: 3/1/20

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: A-E (photo); A-S (5)

Comments: Still choosing to accept and copying down my comments from the 3rd circulation:

“Still choosing to accept this species. Nothing about this record proves to me that it couldn't be wild, although it doesn't tick my subjective “with other Greenland geese” box as darkly as I would like. As Geoff had mentioned in a prior circulation, I'm just glad to see these records being voted on and that the records will be archived. Perhaps we will be able to return to these records in future years when more evidence/information is available regarding the vagrancy of this species.”

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Douglas Stotz

Date of review: 19 February 2020

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: A-E(photo)

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation]

This is clearly a Barnacle Goose. The question is origin. There is nothing specific about this record that argues for a captive origin. My personal thinking is that we should accept single Barnacle Geese occurring at a reasonable time of year (late October to early March), that does seem unusually tame, that is consorting with wild migratory Arctic geese, that doesn't spend a very long time at a single site, and that shows no evidence of having been in captivity. This bird meets those criteria. Given birds we have already accepted, accepting this record seems unremarkable.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Paul Sweet

Date of review: 2/20/20

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: A-E(photo)

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation] The comments by other reviewers suggest that the origin issue is less of a concern given that the species is now on the state list. Not necessarily the best approach, but far from the worst one we can take, I guess.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 2019-002

Name of bird form: Barnacle Goose

Committee member name: Geoffrey A. Williamson

Date of review: 18 February 2020

Circulation number: 4th

Vote: U-O

Comments: [required as this is a 4th circulation]

After discussion at the IORC meeting of 16 Feb 2020, I remain doubtful of this record. My main concern is the lack of evidence within the material submitted to IORC concerning observer observations related to evidence of captivity or behavior.