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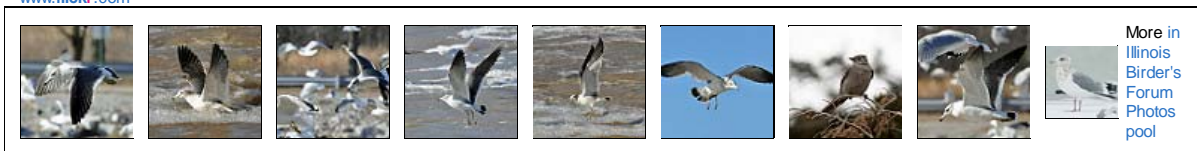
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### Author

**Andrew Aldrich**

Hero Member



Posts: 215



### Topic: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County (Read 12735 times)

**Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« on: November 27, 2012, 07:37:44 AM »

Hello. I am aware provenance is an issue with this bird, so I posted in Field Reports instead of Rare Bird Alerts.

This morning I was doing my morning retention pond check before work, but most of them were frozen over and the waterfowl diversity was dismal. So I headed to the last place I could think of within reasonable distance that might be open, the retention pond behind the Meijer store at Route 34 & Douglas Rd. in Oswego. I've seen Snow Geese here before, and it's the only place I've had Black-crowned Night Heron in Kendall county. Anyway, while scanning the hundreds of Canadas and not being able to pick out a single different bird, towards the end of the pond there was a small flock of 20-30 Cackling Geese. Smack dab in the middle was a sleeping goose that had a solid black breast. I grabbed my scope, camera and Sibley, hid behind a conifer, and waited for it to lift its head. When it did, fully expecting to get my lifer Brant, I was floored to see a Barnacle Goose. After a few minutes it got up and started preening, walked on the ice over to an opening and bathed, and then a small group of geese took flight and it followed right after. I was able to catch some video of this as well.



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Barnacle Goose by dialbforbirder, on Flickr

And a video: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dialbforbirder/8224490818/in/photostream>

After driving around for an hour checking fields and ponds, I finally relocated the bird grazing in the grass a couple miles away behind the pond at Wolf Crossing & Lundquist. Maps attached. It is worth noting that that the pond on Lundquist crosses the Will/Kendall county line. Some areas are in Kendall, some are in Will, so county listers: make note of the bird's precise location.

map1.jpg (209.95 kB, 771x545 - viewed 195 times.)

map2.jpg (142.68 kB, 643x482 - viewed 200 times.)

map3.jpg (189.02 kB, 654x552 - viewed 142 times.)

« Last Edit: November 28, 2012, 11:45:39 AM by Andrew Aldrich » [Report to moderator](#) Logged

**Benjamin Guo**

Hero Member



Posts: 547

IL #252 Snow Bunting



**Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

[Quote](#)

« **Reply #1 on:** November 27, 2012, 07:49:20 AM »

Did you notice any clipped toes or a band? From what I can tell, there is nothing indicating that this bird is not wild. It can fly perfectly fine, so obviously no clipped wings. Although I have no easy way of getting there anytime soon, hopefully other birders will check it out.

Awesome bird!

Warbler10

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**Scott Cohrs**

Hero Member



Posts: 196



**Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

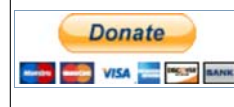
[Quote](#)

« **Reply #2 on:** November 27, 2012, 07:55:08 AM »

Great bird Andrew.

Here's my question... What will it take for one of these to actually get accepted as wild? Not trying to start a firestorm or criticize any past

a long way.



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decisions in any way, as I understand this bird is kept in captivity frequently. But, when a bird shows up at the right time in the company of the right birds and has a history of vagrancy in other parts of the region, I'd have to think some of these are wild. I don't have the exact details in front of me, but I think the population of Cacklers in western Greenland has increased substantially. The fact that this bird in with Cacklers seems even more supportive to me, as Greenland is the likely source of a Barnacle Goose. Now, if a toe is clipped, etc, then this is all moot.

Just curious. And wondering how I can take a really long lunch....

Scott

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### Andrew Aldrich

Hero Member



Posts: 215



### Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County

[Quote](#)

« **Reply #3 on:** November 27, 2012, 08:05:38 AM »

Unfortunately, I did not know to look for clipped toes. I will definitely try to look for that if I see it again. The wings were not clipped, and I did not see any bands on the legs or wings.

Matthew Cvetas mentioned what Scott said as well, pay attention to the birds it is with. Hopefully someone with more experience with the CACG/CANG subspecies can see this bird and weigh in.

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### Matthew Cvetas

Administrator

Hero Member



Posts: 2696



### Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County

[Quote](#)

« **Reply #4 on:** November 27, 2012, 08:38:20 AM »

Very cool find, Andrew!

I started another thread in the Discussion forum on this. There's a link to an interesting ABA article there.

<http://www.ilbirds.com/index.php?topic=51978>

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Nobody loves me but my mother, and she could be jivin' too.  
-B.B. King

### Michael Retter

Hero Member



Posts: 909



### Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County

[Quote](#)

« **Reply #5 on:** November 27, 2012, 09:55:14 AM »

**Quote from: Scott Cohrs on November 27, 2012, 07:55:08 AM**

Here's my question... What will it take for one of these to actually get accepted as wild? Not trying to start a firestorm or criticize any past decisions in any way, as I understand this bird is kept in captivity frequently. But, when a bird shows up at the right time in the company of the right birds and has a history of vagrancy in other parts of the region, I'd have to think some of these are wild. I don't have the exact details in front of me, but I think the population of Cacklers in western Greenland has increased substantially. The fact that this bird in with Cacklers seems even more supportive to me, as Greenland is the likely source of a Barnacle Goose. Now, if a toe is clipped, etc, then this is all moot.

Scott, the Indiana committee just accepted a bird shot by a hunter. You're right about the western Greenland Richardson's Geese increasing in number. I wrote an article for *Meadowlark* about this phenomenon.

[Report to moderator](#)  Logged

Michael Retter  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://aba.org/birdersguide/editor.html>

### Keith A. McMullen

Hero Member

### Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County

[Quote](#)

« **Reply #6 on:** November 27, 2012, 10:13:05 AM »



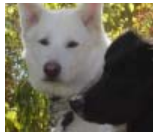
GoPro HERO4  
Session HD  
Waterproof Action



Posts: 854

**Joan Norek**

Hero Member



Posts: 279

**Stoil Ivanov**

Hero Member



Posts: 139

**Kurt Frieders**

Fledgeling



Posts: 2



AM »

Seems very possible the bird could be wild!

Nice find, Andrew, whether wild or not.

Good birdings,

Keith

[Report to moderator](#) Logged**Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« Reply #7 on: November 27, 2012, 11:21:39

AM »

Hi Andrew,

Whether that bird ends up in the (a) wild or (b) not wild or (c) the can't-be-determined-so-not-accepted-as-wild (or some other that I have not thought of) category, it must have been an awesome birding moment when the "lifer Brant" woke up.

Congrats!

Joan Norek

[Report to moderator](#) Logged**Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« Reply #8 on: November 27, 2012, 11:37:34

AM »

Couple things to consider with this bird. How well it flies? How well the released large birds such as ducks and geese can fly? I doubt that captive /escaped birds can get enough space in their enclosures or opportunity to learn to fly well. of course if the toe is clipped it is not going to matter.

[Report to moderator](#) Logged**Re: Barnacle Goose, Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« Reply #9 on: November 27, 2012, 11:40:50

AM »

I read Andrew's post about ten minutes after he posted, and went right to the location as I only was about a mile away. Andrew had not yet posted the map of where he saw it, but it was in the field that I see he has now listed with about 150 Canadas and around 12 Cacklers. As inconceivable as I would think finding a wild Barnacle Goose around here is, my observations were that this bird exhibited all of the behaviors of a wild bird. When I was there, it was not directly aside of but was hanging out with in ten feet of a group of six Cacklers. It exhibited all of the traits of a wild goose while I was watching it. Eventually one of the local Red-tailed Hawks that routinely hangs out on the telephone poles on Route 30 took a low pass by which spooked three of the geese which led to the other 159 geese in the flock to get up and move back to the pond where Andrew originally saw them. The Barnacle Goose was still in that pond when I left. This was definitely an amazing sight to see, and I definitely want to thank Andrew for alerting me to it.

071.JPG (1293.77 kB, 2816x2112 - viewed 163 times.)

072.JPG (1322.99 kB, 2816x2112 - viewed 137 times.)

068.JPG (1326.39 kB, 2816x2112 - viewed 130 times.)

067.JPG (1331.7 kB, 2816x2112 - viewed 128 times.)

« Last Edit: November 27, 2012, 12:14:11 PM by Michael Retter » [Report to moderator](#)

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**Kurt Frieders**

Fledgeling



Posts: 2

 **Re: Barnacle Goose,  
Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« **Reply #10 on:** November 27, 2012, 11:45:50 AM »

One thing I forgot to mention in my original post was how the bird was able to fly. I'm glad that Stoil mentioned that in his post. Like I mentioned before, I did get to see it take off and fly. It flew exactly like the rest of the flock, and just like every other goose I have seen. As unlikely as this is, it seems to me that this is a wild bird.

Report to moderator Logged

**Sean Fitzgerald**

Sr. Member



Posts: 81

 **Re: Barnacle Goose,  
Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« **Reply #11 on:** November 27, 2012, 11:50:11 AM »

Great find Andrew!

I was able to study this bird at length around lunch and the hind-toes (halluces) are present on both feet.

Here's the eBird checklist from my visit: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S12171943>

Good birding!

Sean Fitzgerald  
Batavia, Kane Co

« *Last Edit:* November 27, 2012, 12:13:47 PM by Michael Retter » Report to moderator Logged**Michael Retter**

Hero Member



Posts: 909

 **Re: Barnacle Goose,  
Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« **Reply #12 on:** November 27, 2012, 12:15:55 PM »**Quote from:** Kurt Frieders on November 27, 2012, 11:40:50 AM

As inconceivable as I would think finding a wild Barnacle Goose around here is...

Far from inconceivable, Kurt. And far from unprecedented! There are a number of records from this part of the country, including northern Illinois.

Report to moderator Logged

Michael Retter  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://aba.org/birdersguide/editor.html>

**Sean Fitzgerald**

Sr. Member



Posts: 81

 **Re: Barnacle Goose,  
Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« **Reply #13 on:** November 27, 2012, 12:36:40 PM »

Thanks for adjusting hallux to the plural form. I was hedging on that Michael!

Sean Fitzgerald

« *Last Edit:* November 27, 2012, 01:00:35 PM by Michael Retter » Report to moderator Logged**bfisher928**

Jr. Member



Posts: 18

 **Re: Barnacle Goose,  
Kendall/Will County**

Quote

« **Reply #14 on:** November 27, 2012, 02:12:17 PM »

I was able to scope this bird at closer range and perhaps a better light angle than Bruce H, Sean F and another birder shortly after 11 AM. I watched it walk and forage in the grass and could clearly see both feet/legs as it walked. Both hind toes were intact, and no band was present on either leg. For what it's worth, the folded primaries looked fairly fresh and undamaged as well. At that point it was in among a group of Canadas and Cacklers.



Bob Fisher  
Thanks Bruce for calling me back when you relocated this bird!

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