

Communication to IORC from Kirk Roth regarding status of Barnacle Goose in Indiana.

The single accepted Barnacle Goose in Indiana was before my membership in the IBRC. It was a bird shot by a hunter and photos were reviewed. I've never looked at the discussions but I assume they reviewed all the salient points of hallices, wear, and so on for a physical specimen. A few years later, a member of the committee proposed that this bird be re-reviewed. I was on the committee at the time, though not chair and I proposed that we had the rare opportunity of pursuing an isotope analysis of one of the feathers and we'd know for sure. Unfortunately, the hunter has the bird mounted and refuses to relinquish a feather for the effort - so we are stuck.

To my knowledge, there have been two other Barnacle Goose reports in the past several years in Indiana. One was a well documented bird in Indianapolis that spent several mornings in a large flock of Canada Geese. I happen to have been the one to discover that it was missing a hallux. This bird was sent to committee and unanimously non-accepted. There is another bird (or two or the same) which has been seen in north central Indiana two springs, if I remember correctly. This one stays hidden and to my knowledge no photos have ever been taken of it. Nobody has submitted this bird for IBRC review.

That's the summary - let me know if you would like more. I'll add that Indiana does not have nearly the "goose flyway" that Illinois experiences, so we may not be as great of an example as the other states surrounding Illinois.

-Kirk