



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

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**Re: Rare Bird Documentation**

1 message

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**William Rowe** <rowemb45@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 12:10 PM

To: IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

Geoff:

The most recent Barnacle Goose record we considered as a committee was from March 2012. Here is the entry from the Annual Report:

**BARNACLE GOOSE** (*Branta leucopsis*), 2012-20: Adult, 31 March 2012, James Reed Wildlife Area, Jackson Co. This bird was definitely a Barnacle Goose, but the Committee considered its origin to be problematic. There is, however, an emerging pattern of occurrence of apparently wild Barnacle Geese in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. If such a pattern is eventually demonstrated in the Midwest, this record and others of the species could be re-evaluated.

For a fuller view, here is Mark Robbins' draft text of Barnacle Goose for his revision of Bird of Missouri (in process). The brackets around the name signify "Provisional", which usually means that there is no definitive record (no physical evidence or multiple docs) but in this case means that there is no record where provenance is not in doubt. Same with Mute Swan and American Flamingo.

### **[Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)]**

**Status:** Provisional; provenance of all records uncertain.

**Documentation:** Specimen: ad female, taken by hunter, 1 Dec 1991, 5 miles E of Nevada, Vernon Co. No bands on neck or tarsi. Specimen deposited at USFWS training site in Glynco, Georgia; specimen photos in VIREO r08/15 /001-2).

**Habitat:** Marshes, lakes, and rivers.

**Spring:** 1, 26 Mar 1950, Marais Temps Clair (m.ob.); 1, 25-26 Mar 1976, Squaw Creek (LG et al.); 1, 29-31 Mar 2012, J.A. Reed CA (EW); 1, photos, 28 May 1984, J.A. Reed CA (S. Cooper);

**Fall:** 2, 6 Nov 1977, Squaw Creek (LG et al); 1, photos, 20-26 Oct 1980, Swan Lake (D. Graber); 1, 12-28 Nov 2007, Riverlands (JU).

**Comments:** This is a common bird in avicultural collections, thus the origin of all records has been considered questionable. However, none of the birds reported in the state have had been banded and during the past 30 years the Greenland population has steadily increased (Sherony 2008). All observations should be carefully documented noting age (immatures would likely indicate that a bird is of wild origin) and the presence/absence of neck or leg bands. Any birds that have been incidentally shot should be preserved as provenance might be determined through stable isotope analyses.

In other words, we are looking for good solid reasons to accept as wild but haven't found them yet.

Bill

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 11:56 AM, IORC <[iorcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:iorcommittee@gmail.com)> wrote:

Ah yes, the peril of cut and paste. Sorry about that.

I will add your remarks about the bird's appearance based on photographs to the record.

By the way, do you have anything that you could share relevant to evaluation of Barnacle Goose records? Has the Missouri committee looked at the issue of Barnacle Goose occurrence? We will be this year trying to address the situation in Illinois and I want to assemble what is available from other states' deliberations and the literature.

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 9:03 AM, William Rowe <[rowemb45@gmail.com](mailto:rowemb45@gmail.com)> wrote:

Geoff:

Thanks for the very thorough acknowledgment email. I will consider poaching a few things from it for the Missouri acknowledgment.

Note that the last paragraph does not apply to this record -- must have been added for some other one. (Definitely not two Black-tailed Gulls!)

Also, I doubt that the Committee needs to hear this from me (since you will have many great images of the bird to work with), but a few of the items I mentioned in the doc were clarified by the closer photos:

Bill color: basically confirmed as dull gray-green. Red at tip definitely present, as well as a slight bit proximal to the black.

Leg color: same, but feet apparently yellower (we did not see them)

Mantle color: I said entirely gray, but in fact the wing coverts show a very slight brownish cast in photos by Doug Hommert, maybe others.

Primaries: Inner ones do show white tips in flight, but outers (only ones visible at rest) do not.

Tail pattern: Some photos confirm that black band was edged in white (i.e., tail appeared to have white outer vanes on outer rectrices).

Overall, all photos confirm third cycle, per Howell & Dunn. Bird was very close to images 21.13 and 21.14 in that book.

Thanks,

Bill

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 8:30 AM, IORC <[iorcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:iorcommittee@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Bill and Matt: