

## RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

### Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

**SPECIES:** Barnacle Goose

**NUMBER OBSERVED:** 1

**OBSERVER MAKING REPORT:** Craig Provost

**LOCATION:** Lake Runnemed, Windsor (town & county)

**DATE:** 3/10/2013

**TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:** 8:40am In sight for about one minute; perhaps some seconds more.

**DISTANCES FROM BIRD:** Flock was located to the south of my location heading toward me. Began counting individuals as they approached. The closest they would get was roughly 300 feet overhead and slightly west of me. Flock continued on northward without changing course or speed.

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy; high thin clouds

wind direction Unknown; too light to tell wind speed Light wind to calm

sky cover Partly cloudy light in relation to observer's position Sun was on my back

temperature 30 F (estimated)

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** Kowa Genisis 10x44 binoculars

**OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:** Have seen this specie in the wild on two occasions previously.

**OTHER DOCUMENTATION:** None

**HABITAT:** Was standing at edge of field; bird was in flight.

**BIRD'S BEHAVIOR:** (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

Bird observed in flight. Kept its place in the formation.

**VOCALIZATION:** Heard geese calling; not sure which members of the flock were the source.

**DESCRIPTION:** (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

After locating the flock I began counting the individuals. Initially there were two groups which merged before reaching me. As I was counting and viewing each individual, I spotted a bird which appeared to have a white head. I stopped counting and focused on this bird. It was noticeably smaller than the Canadas and as it got closer to me I clearly saw the black bib and white on the belly

and undertail. Also noticed the medium gray on the leading and inner part of the underwing and darker on the outer underside of the primaries and secondaries. Continued to observe the group as it proceeded north and eventually beyond view.

Relative size and shape: Bird noticeably smaller than the Canadas it was with.

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): First field mark noted was what appeared to be a white head. Neck and down on to the upper breast was all black. Top and back of head not seen given the angle of observation.

Feet and Bill: Did not focus on these

Upper back: Not observed

Lower back and rump: Not observed

Wings (shape, length, markings): Only underwings seen clearly. Underwing coverts and axillaries lighter gray; contrasted slightly with white belly and undertail. Underside of primaries and secondaries darker.

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts: From the neck down to the upper breast, all black. Distinct contrast of upper breast black with white extending from there down the belly to the undertail. Median coverts and axillaries slightly darker than underparts, but lighter than the underside of primaries and secondaries.

Tail (shape, length, markings): Did not focus on the tail.

**IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?**

The dark forms of both Snow & Ross' Geese show white on underwing coverts, dark coloration on breast extends further down along sides and on to the belly.

**COMMENTS:**

This report was written from notes taken during \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after \_\_\_\_\_ the observation, or written from memory \_XX\_ (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME (print) Craig Provost SIGNATURE (not req'd) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 1241 Stowe, VT 05672 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 3/10/2013 \_\_\_\_\_

Return electronically (preferred) to: [vbrc@vtecostudies.org](mailto:vbrc@vtecostudies.org) or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055