

**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:** Willow Ptarmigan

**NUMBER OBSERVED:** One

**OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS** (and addresses if available) In addition to myself, there was Gary Royer, Damon Carr, & Randy Ott  
All four of us are employees of Fairbanks Scales, 2176 Portland Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. It was our break period and we were outside taking a walk.

**LOCATION:** (place, township, county)  
Fairbanks Scales, 2176 Portland Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 in Caledonia County, state of Vermont.

**DATE:** May 8, 2014

**TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:** Approximately 2:15 pm for approximately 5 - 10 minutes.

**DISTANCES FROM BIRD:** Maximum\_\_10 ft\_\_ Minimum\_\_5 ft\_\_

**WEATHER:**

wind direction \_\_\_\_\_ wind speed \_\_\_\_\_

sky cover \_\_\_\_\_ light in relation to observer's position temperature \_\_\_\_\_

Partly Cloudy – some breeze.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** (make, power, etc.) **One of the co-workers took photo and possibly video with his cell phone.**

**OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:**

**No previous acquaintance with this species. Co-worker, Gary Royer, identified species from knowledge but no previous sighting.**

**OTHER DOCUMENTATION:** Photo \_\_X\_\_ Tape Recording \_\_?\_\_ Specimen \_\_\_\_\_

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? **I believe one of the above-mentioned co-workers took photo and video that has been submitted.**

**HABITAT:** (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

This bird was sighted on a paved side road maintained by the Town of St. Johnsbury off the edge of the Fairbanks Scales parking lot. This runs along the edge of the Moose River and is also bordered on the other side by a small brook which runs under route 2 off the Spaulding Hill Road.

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

**This beautiful white bird was walking along through undergrowth feeding off a low growing plant. When approached it just walked along and did not take flight. We observed it for 5 - 10 minutes and then returned to our work inside the Fairbanks Scales building.**

**VOCALIZATION:** (song or calls)

**During the sighting I did not distinguish any sounds made by the Ptarmigan.**

**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.)

**Relative size and shape: About the size of a partridge except that it was snow white with stocky appearing to be feathery- covered legs with pink appearing eyelids.**

**Head** (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): Totally white with pink appearing eyelids.

**Feet and Bill** (shape, color, length): Nothing remarkable.

**Upper back: No markings - just white.**

**Lower back and rump: No markings - just white**

**Wings** (shape, length, markings): No markings.

**Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts: No markings - just white.**

**Tail** (shape, length, markings): No markings - just white.

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

**Initial thought by Randy and Damon was that it was a white (? Albino) partridge, but Gary Royer thought it to be a Ptarmigan.**

**COMMENTS:** (was age or sex determined?, etc.) **No**

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

No notes were taken at the time of the sighting, but did "Google" "Ptarmigan" on-line as soon as returned to office and the photo and description appeared to perfectly match the bird that we observed.

NAME (print)\_\_\_Linda Bradshaw\_\_\_\_\_SIGNATURE (not req'd)\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_3358 Littleton Road, Monroe, NH  
03771\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_May 14, 2014\_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional Material Available and Added by VBRC:

Link to Video: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152121019351409>

Link to image of tail from video: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vtecostudies/15418731981/>