

Barnacle Goose in South Carolina

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

331 Yadkin Drive

Raleigh, N.C. 27609

A Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) was present in South Carolina during the winter of 1980-1981 at Santee National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Marion. It was first observed by refuge personnel on 7 November, by Gardner Miller and Perry Nugent on 22 November, and by other birders at least through 22 January.

Several members of the Zoology Department at Clemson University (Sidney Gauthreaux, Carl Helms, Anna Ross, and I) traveled to the refuge on 22 January and saw the Barnacle Goose in a large flock of Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*). Unfortunately, the geese were several hundred yards away from the nature trail and observation platforms, and "no trespassing" signs prevented us from approaching the flock for closer viewing. Nonetheless, we obtained good looks of the Barnacle Goose as it fed with the Canadas in a grain field adjacent to Lake Marion. The Barnacle was noticeably smaller and shorter-necked than the Canadas. The large amount of white on the face, encircling the eye, was clearly seen. An excellent mark was the great extent of black on the underparts, ranging down the neck onto the breast. The black color on the neck of the Canadas stops at the base of the neck.

This appears to be the first record of the Barnacle Goose for South Carolina. There are numerous records for North Carolina; yet the North Carolina Records Committee placed the species on its Provisional II list, as opposed to its Official List (Chat 44:59-61). The committee stated: "occurrence well documented but birds possibly escaped from captivity" (p. 59). Barnacle Geese are kept as captives by a number of waterfowl breeders and zoos; thus, there is a possibility that the bird seen at Santee could have escaped. However, the goose seemed in good health, was wary (as it flushed and flew freely when the entire flock of Canadas was disturbed and took flight), showed no signs of captivity (such as leg bands), and appeared at an appropriate season (winter) in prime goose habitat. As a result, the origin of the bird, and the validity of the record, are both open to question.

Observations on the Singing of a Chuck-will's-widow

PETE LAURIE

750 Copperhead Trail

Johns Island, S.C. 29455

On 2 June 1983 at 0245 a Chuck-will's-widow began to call in my yard on Johns Island, Charleston County, S.C. The bird sang continuously until 0419. I counted 2616 calls. Every 25 to 100 calls the bird would pause for perhaps 2 to 3 seconds before continuing. On average the bird sang about 27 times per minute.

When the bird ceased calling, it flew much closer and in a matter of seconds began to call again. After calling continuously for 11 minutes at this new location, it moved