

The Anser Leucopareius of Brandt

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The two translated publications presented herewith are the major references to the naming and description of a new species, *Anser leucopareius* Brandt, (now *Branta canadensis leucopareia*), in 1836. In that year Johann Friedrich Brandt first presented a short paper, "Note sur l'*Anser canadensis* et l'*Anser pictus* de la Zoographie de Pallas", (Bull. Sci. Acad. Imp. Sci., St. Petersburg, (Akademiia nauk SSSR, Leningrad), 1:37, No. 7, lu le 8 avril, 1836) in which he offered a very general description and named this newly recognized species. Later, in the same year, Brandt presented a detailed description of the new species in his publication "Descriptiones et icones animalium rossicorum novorum vel minus rite cognitorum", (Aves. Fasc. I. Petropoli, jussu et sumptibus Academiae scientiarum, 1836. 64 p., plates). In works involving the systematics of the white-cheeked geese the first publication is often cited; the second publication, practically never. This circumstance is unfortunate, for while the first paper is important in establishing priority, it is the second paper which provides the details concerning the characteristics of the specimen named and, taxonomically, it is this latter publication which is perhaps the most important. Lacking a detailed description and convenient access to the type, which is located in the Academy of Science Museum, Leningrad, USSR, writers in this country have either conservatively admitted to great variation in the considered race or, more recently, in an effort to categorize observed geographic variation, recognized additional races. Without an established reference either philosophy would appear unrealistic, falling perhaps, to recognize natural units in the first instance and contributing synonymy and errors in the second. It is believed that the availability of this early literature in English will provide modern taxonomists with new insight into the status of *B. c. leucopareia*.

In the translations that follow, the original wording and punctuation has been adhered to as closely as possible with the hope that something of the personality of the original author will be preserved. Words added for clarity or continuity are included in brackets. Where there is a question

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of interpretation or proper translation the word of the original author is included in parentheses.

Translation of: "Note sur l'*Anser canadensis* et l'*Anser pictus* de la Zoographie de Pallas".

7. Note on *Anser canadensis* and *Anser pictus* from the Zoography of Pallas.

It is Pallas who has described, under the name *Anser canadensis*, a species of goose from the Aleutian Islands, which without a doubt, with regard to distribution and the quality of the colors, resembles perfectly the goose of Canada, but in which the size is smaller, and which, by the shape of the beak and the shorter neck, as well as by the longer tarsi, it very nearly approaches the barnacle [goose] and offers, also, on more exact inspection, some differences of color. For one discovers, on each side [of the head] a nearly oblong-rhomboidal spot which commences above the throat, instead of only one white spot which is found under the throat of the goose of Canada and which inclines behind the eye to the occiput. The *Anser canadensis* of the Zoography must thus constitute a completely individual species to which I propose to give the name *Anser leucopareius*. *Anser leucopareius* differs from *Anser Hutchinsii* of M. Richardson (Fauna Boreali-Americana) by the absence of a white spot before the eyes and another which commences at the side of the tail and extends up to the breast, as well as by the shorter feet. The very place that M. Richardson gives *Anser Hutchinsii* in the [phylogenetic] system indicates a difference, for in commencing with *Anser canadensis*, he next describes *Anser leucopsis*,¹ and then *Anser Hutchinsii*.

Sewastinanoff has published, under the name of *Anas canagica*, in the thirteenth volume of Nova Acta, a species of goose, equally appropriate to the Aleutian Islands, not yet described at that time and very distinguishable with regard to size and colors. Pallas, in his Zoography, in correctly classifying this species in the genera of geese, has considered it identical with a species reported by Cook from the island of Stattenland [now isle de los Estados] and described by Latham under the name of Painted Goose. To it he gives the name *Anser pictus*. But an exact comparison of the description given by Latham, as well as the difference of the [geographic] region have given to me the conviction that the *Anser pictus* of Pallas cannot be the Painted Goose of Latham, and that it is necessary to change the name of *Anser pictus* to avoid confusion. It seems more convenient to call this species *Anser canagicus* Nob.

The detailed descriptions of these two species, accompanied with figures, will be delivered in the first part of my work entitled: *Descriptiones et Icones animalium novorum vel minus rite cognitorum Faunae Rossicae*.

Translation from: "Descriptiones et icones animalium rossicorum novorum vel minus rite cognitorum" (pp. 13-17, pl. 2).

2. *Anser (Bernicla) leucopareius* Nob.¹

Essential Characters

Body ash brown colored, feathers white margined. Head and neck black, except marked on both sides in the parotic region with a pronounced

¹In Fauna Boreali-Americana Richardson places *Anser bernicla* after *Anser canadensis*. *Anser leucopsis* is mentioned only during comparisons in the text.

²Parentheses are those of the original author. Nob. Probably from *nobilis* (*nobilis*) —to make known.

white spot and with a very narrow, white ring at the boundary of the neck.

Synonymy

Anser canadensis Pallas. Zoographia Rosso-Asiat. Vol. II, p. 230. n. 325; exclusive of all other synonyms given by him.
Anser leucopareius Brandt. Bulletin Scientif. d. l'Acad. Imper. d. St. Petersb. Vol. I n. 5^a p. 37.

Description

By the name of *Anser leucopareius* we designate that species of goose which Pallas in his praiseworthy Zoography called *Anser canadensis*. It is known that in offering his description Pallas did not have before his eyes a true specimen of *Anser canadensis* or a description and accurate figure with which to make a careful comparison with this specimen. It is with good fortune that in the Academy Museum there exists not only a complete and well preserved specimen of the form [described by] Pallas, but also a genuine *Anser canadensis* so that we can establish so much better [the features] which discriminate [between] each animal.

Indeed, at first sight *Anser canadensis* and *leucopareius* are seen to possess the strongest relationship, however, if you consider each bird more accurately the greatest differences are presented. For instance, in *Anser canadensis* the body is much larger, the beak is much more elongate and the head is a little shorter, somewhat swan shaped, the neck is much longer, the tarsi are shorter, the feet larger, and further, in a shape quite unlike [that of *leucopareius*] there is a single white band [extending] side to side from the throat above the mandibles to the occiput.

The species of goose, which Richardson recently presented by the name of *Anser Hutchinsii* in Fauna-Boreali Americana, Volume Two, page 470 and to which, in the beginning I had thought [this] form to be associated, is distinguished from the one we are now treating so that from the description of Richardson it is valid to conclude that there is a white spot before the eye, further that there is a gular-parotic spot as in the figure of *Anser canadensis*, then a white band extends from the upper tail coverts to the sides of the breast and belly, also the flank is of blue-gray [and is] transversely white barred. The tarsi and feet are shorter. Also from the [phylogenetic] place which Richardson gives *Anser Hutchinsii* it appears that a different derivation is possible. For instance, in first position is *Anser canadensis*, in second position *Anser leucopsis*¹, after *Anser leucopsis* Richardson properly describes *Anser Hutchinsii* in last [position], so that from this order one can conclude that *Anser Hutchinsii* has a greater affinity with *Anser leucopsis* than with *Anser canadensis*, to which, indeed, *Anser leucopareius* appears most similar in color. Indeed, *Anser leucopareius* can be considered as a Brant clothed in the plumage of *Anser canadensis*, but with two distinct white spots in the parotic [region] instead of one. Indeed, the size, the beak, the feet, and the neck appear as that of the Brant, not swan-like in form as that of *Anser canadensis*.

The beak is glossy black, abbreviated, scarcely longer than one-half the head length, quite high; laterally and above, at the base of a groove, are nares [which] do not project at the same angle as in *Anser canadensis*. The lamellae do not exceed the exterior margin [of the beak]. The entire

¹In the photocopy which I have it is entry number 7.

²See footnote 3, page 275.

head and also the neck is black, somewhat iridescent. There appears, however, laterally, on both sides of the head, a white spot; in our specimen almost oblong-rhomboidal (as Pallas witnessed, oval, angular), which, beginning beneath the lower margin of the mandible, ascends perpendicularly and somewhat obliquely backwards behind the eye to the sides at the posterior part of the head, thus indeed, in such a way that the anterior margin [forms] a somewhat concave arch, the posterior margin a convex arch, the lower margin [is] somewhat straight, the upper margin, however, appears somewhat shortly rounded, and ends almost in the same line with the upper eyelid and [the spot is] 20 lines [42.33 mm] long, 12 lines [25.4 mm] [wide] below, but is found to be [only] 7 lines [14.82 mm] wide above. Further, beneath the lower eyelid a small, white, oblong spot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines [7.41 mm] in diameter is perceived. The chin and beginning of the throat with the [rest of the] neck are less black, but approaching a little brownish shaded because of the character of the feathers with which it is covered, white base, shiny black tips, and a sparse sprinkling of very small, distinct, slightly white spots are perceived. Color of the neck is dull black, with the head color a little brighter and in some light approaches a somewhat violet hue; a narrow, white ring is visible from the side of the breast and almost disappears at the dorsal boundary [of the neck]. Feathers of the upper part of the jugulum are ash colored with somewhat yellowish and dusky white margins. The remaining feathers of the jugulum and also the breast are a brownish ash color and with the [area] before the margin of the tip quite extensively white with a narrow, parallel marginal band of pale brown are noted. The feathers of the anterior, center [epigastric] breast and also the anterior part of the belly are similar in color to the breast, but with small, narrower, white margins, which results in the epigastric and the lower jugulum region [appearing] more whitish. Feathers of the lateral, anterior breast [hypocondrium] are less white than on the abdomen, but more brown or dusky and the broad margins are less extensively white. The mid and posterior parts of the belly, the crissum, and also the upper and lower tail coverts are dull to shining white. The [feathers of] the upper and lower tail coverts have dark shafts and white tips. The feathers of the aucheni [lower, posterior neck] and also the wing coverts as also the moderately long feathers about the wing [base] are of a grayish brown [color] with narrow, white or dusky white margins. The interscapular feathers are grayish brown with margin tips which are very narrow and pale, inclining to whitish. The anterior part of the back between the scapulae is darker and more brown with feather margin tips which are pale brown. The feathers of the posterior part of the back and the uropygium are dull black, but with brownish bases. The feathers of the tail are about the same. The primaries above are of a brownish black and shining, the shafts dark and shining, the inferior surface [of the shaft] which is flat, is a shining brown, the proximal portion of the inner surface of the barbs (*pogonia*) are white with shafts which have dark tips and variegated dusky white bases. The under wing coverts are dusky gray in color. The [feathers of the] alula are a grayish brown. The down-like feathers of the tibia are grayish to dusky black. The tarsi are elongate, strong; the middle toe length is greatest and both tarsi and toe[s] are black. The toes have a nail and a black web. The free margin of the web is finely denticulated, the denticles pointed and cone-like. The inner toe is elongate, somewhat elevated.¹

¹(*subamotus*) . . . This term is usually used in reference to the posterior toe, however, Brandt may here refer to the articulation of the inner toe with the tarso-metatarsus, which, in the specimens I have examined, is slightly elevated above the articulations of the middle and outer toes.

Measurements

	[feet, inches, lines]	[mm]
From the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail	2'0" 6½"	623.36
From the tip of the bill to the base of the tail	2'0" 1 "	611.72 ^a
Length of the bill to the front	1" 6 "	38.1
From the base of the bill, over the forehead to the beginning of the nape of the neck	2" 7 "	65.82
From the base of the bill to the humerus	7"10 "	198.97
Wing length from the carpal region	1'3" 9 "	400.05
Tail length	5"11 "	150.28
Tarsus length	3" 3½"	83.61
Length of the middle toe	2" 9 "	69.85
Length of the outer toe	2" 6 "	63.5
Length of the posterior toe	8½"	17.99
Maxilla width at the base	9 "	19.05
Maxilla width near the tip	5½"	11.64

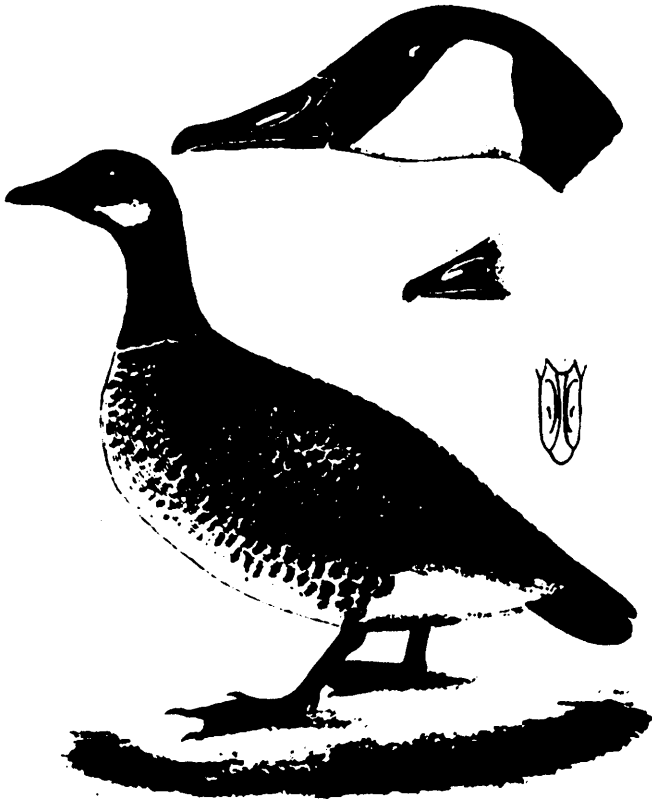
Our species is found, as is the preceding one [*Anser canagicus*], in the Aleutian Islands toward the American shore, and indeed, in like manner [they were found] on the expedition "Billingsiana a Merkiö", which brought back some specimens. On Unalaska Island [the species] is said to be not rare. This [species] nests there on the ledges between the Alcas and Phalacrocoraces. Many fly across to the Aleutian Islands and certain individuals also spend the winter there.

Explanation of the second plate

- Figure 1. *Anser leucopareius*, after the specimen in the Academy Museum, reduced to one-fourth natural size. [retouched]
- Figure 2. The bill reduced to one-half natural size, as seen in a lateral view. [retouched].
- Figure 3. The bill reduced to one-half natural size as seen from above. [retouched].
- Figure 4. The head of *Anser canadensis* reduced to one-half natural size, added for purposes of comparison. [retouched].

^aIt would appear that a possible discrepancy occurs here or in the preceding measurement. The difference between this and the preceding measurement would indicate a tail length of less than 12 mm.

II.



Larus aurantiventer, A. L.