

Greenland White-fronted Goose. Hvanneyri, near Borgarnes, Iceland. 17th April 2012.
Photo: Alyn Walsh.



List of Geese & Swans with References

Compiled by Joe Hobbs



Introduction

I have endeavoured to keep typos, errors, omissions etc in this list to a minimum, however when you find more I would be grateful if you could mail the details during 2018 & 2019 to: josephobbs@gmail.com.

Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are **not exhaustive** and are best employed in conjunction with other sources.

Grateful thanks to Alyn Walsh for the cover images. All images © the photographer.

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Index

The general order of species follows the International Ornithologists' Union World Bird List (**Gill, F. & Donsker, D.** (eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List. Available from: <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/> [version 8.1 accessed January 2018]).

The list does not include any of the following genera: *Plectropterus*, *Cyanochen*, *Alopochen*, *Neochen* and *Chloephaga*.

Version

Version 1.1 (May 2018).

Cover

Main image: Greenland White-fronted Goose. Hvanneyri, near Borgarnes, Iceland. 17th April 2012. Picture by Alyn Walsh.

Vignette: Whooper Swan. Southern Lowlands near Selfoss, Iceland. 28th April 2012. Picture by Alyn Walsh.

Species	Page No.
Bar-headed Goose [<i>Anser indicus</i>]	12
Barnacle Goose [<i>Branta leucopsis</i>]	11
Bean Geese [<i>Anser fabalis / serrirostris</i>]	7
Black-necked Swan [<i>Cygnus melancoryphus</i>]	22
Black Swan [<i>Cygnus atratus</i>]	21
Brent Goose [<i>Branta bernicla</i>]	6
Cackling Goose [<i>Branta hutchinsii</i>]	9
Canada Goose [<i>Branta canadensis</i>]	9
Cape Barren Goose [<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>]	5
Coscoroba Swan [<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>]	21
Emperor Goose [<i>Anser canagica</i>]	12
Greylag Goose [<i>Anser anser</i>]	15
Hawaiian Goose [<i>Branta sandvicensis</i>]	8
Lesser White-fronted Goose [<i>Anser erythropus</i>]	20
Mute Swan [<i>Cygnus olor</i>]	22
Pink-footed Goose [<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>]	18
Red-breasted Goose [<i>Branta ruficollis</i>]	8
Ross's Goose [<i>Anser rossii</i>]	13
Snow Goose [<i>Anser caerulescens</i>]	14

Swan Goose [<i>Anser cygnoides</i>]	16
Taiga Bean Goose [<i>Anser fabalis</i>]	17
Trumpeter Swan [<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>]	23
Tundra Bean Goose [<i>Anser serrirostris</i>]	17
Tundra Swan [<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>]	24
White-fronted Goose [<i>Anser albifrons</i>]	19
Whooper Swan [<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>]	26

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Cape Barren Goose

Cereopsis novaehollandiae [Latham].

[*C.n. novaehollandiae*] Smaller islands of the Furneaux group and other islands in the Bass Strait including Hogen, Kent & Curtis and Sir Joseph Banks Island group, Neptune Island & other islands in Spencer Gulf, Investigator group, Nuyts Archipelago, Cape Barren Island, coastal islands off Wilson's Promontory, Hunter group of islands off NW Tasmania and introduced to Maria Island off SE Tasmania *et al.* (S & SE Australia). Winters, disperses N to mainland and larger islands.

[*C.n. grisea*] Recherche Archipelago and other islands W to near Albany (W Australia). Winters, disperses N to mainland and larger islands.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* (1992) as monotypic.

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Brent Goose

Branta bernicla [Linnaeus].

[*B.b. bernicla*] NC Siberia. Winters NW Europe.

[*B.b. hrota*] Canadian High and Low Arctic, Greenland, Svalbard (Spitsbergen) and Franz Josef Land. Winters Cape Cod S to North Carolina (Low-Arctic Canadian *hrota*) and mainly Ireland with some to Britain and France (High-Arctic & Greenland *hrota*).

[*B.b. nigricans*] Extreme NE Siberia E to NC Canada. Winters British Columbia S to Baja California. The taxonomic status of the so called Grey-bellied or Lawrence's Brent Goose is not yet established. This potential form breeds at Melville Island (Arctic Canada) and winters at Puget Sound (W coast of North America on either side of the USA - Canada border).

Other names: Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*bernicla*), Pale-bellied Brent Goose (*hrota*), Atlantic Brant (*hrota*), Black Brant (*nigricans*).

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Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis [Pallas].

Mainly on the Taymyr peninsula, with smaller pops on the Gydan & Yamal peninsulas (Arctic Siberia). Winters N & W shores of Black Sea.

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Hawaiian Goose

Branta sandvicensis [Vigors].

Other name: Nēnē.

Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i & Kaua'i (Hawaiian Islands).

The current distribution is influenced by the release of captive-bred individuals back to the wild.

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Canada Geese

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis [Linnaeus]

[*B.c. canadensis*] SE Canada & NE USA. Winters along the Atlantic coast of USA. European feral birds largely consist of this race.

[*B.c. interior*] S & E of Hudson Bay & NE Manitoba. Winters SE USA.

[*B.c. maxima*] Great Plains of N USA E of the Mississippi. Winters, S pops mostly sedentary, N pops S to the Tennessee and Mississippi valleys.

[*B.c. fulva*] S Alaska & coastal British Columbia. Winters S to N California.

[*B.c. parvipes*] E Alaska W to Yukon Territory. Winters Washington & Oregon.

[*B.c. moffitti*] C British Columbia S to C California & E to C Alberta & Arizona. Winters California.

[*B.c. occidentalis*] SW Alaska. Winters Washington & Oregon.

Other Names: Atlantic Canada Goose (*canadensis*), Todd's Canada Goose (*interior*), Interior Canada Goose (*interior*), Hudson Bay Canada Goose (*interior*), Giant Canada Goose (*maxima*), Moffit's Canada Goose (*moffitti*), Great Basin Canada Goose (*moffitti*), Western Canada Goose (*moffitti*), Lesser Canada Goose (*parvipes*), Vancouver Canada Goose (*fulva*), Dusky Canada Goose (*occidentalis*).

Walter Edmond Clyde Todd (1874-1969), American ornithologist who wrote extensively on South American avifauna.

James Kennedy Moffitt (1865-1955), American businessman.

Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii [Richardson]

[*B.h. hutchinsii*] Melville peninsula, Southampton Island, Ellesmere Island & Baffin Island. Winters Gulf coast of Texas & Mexico.

[*B.h. leucopareia*] Aleutian Islands. Winters California.

[*B.h. minima*] Coastal W Alaska. Winters W USA S to C California.

[*B.h. taverneri*] Alaska Peninsula to Mackenzie Delta. Winters Washington & Oregon.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* (1992) as races of Canada Goose.

Other names: Lesser Canada Goose, Richardson's Cackling Goose (*hutchinsii*), Hutchins's Cackling Goose (*hutchinsii*), Taverner's Cackling Goose (*taverneri*), Lesser Cackling Goose (*minima*), Aleutian Cackling Goose (*leucopareia*).

Sir John Richardson (1787-1865), Scottish naval surgeon and Arctic explorer who went on two expeditions with Sir John Franklin with whom he was also related.

Dr. Thomas Hutchins (1730-1790), English naturalist and surgeon who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Sir Percy Algernon Taverner (1875-1947), Canadian ornithologist who worked at the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa.

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Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis [Bechstein].

E Greenland, Spitzbergen & Novaya Zemlya. Winters Ireland, Britain & Netherlands.

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Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus [Latham].

C Asia. Winters Pakistan, N Indian subcontinent & N Myanmar.

- Aravind, N.A.** *et al.* 2001. Additions to the birds of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India. *Zoos' Print Journal* 16(7): 541-547 (542).
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Emperor Goose

Anser canagica [Sevastianov].

Coast of NE Siberia & coastal Alaska. Winters Aleutian Islands and Kamchatka.

Sometimes included in the genus *Chen*.

- Eisenhauer, D.I. & Kirkpatrick, C.M.** 1977. Ecology of the Emperor Goose in Alaska. *Wildlife Monographs* No. 57 pp. 3-62.
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- Schenk, C. & Ebels, E.B.** 2004. Birds of Chukotka and Yakutia. *Dutch Birding* 26(4): 241-257 (plates 346 & 347, p. 242).
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- Schmutz, J.A. et al.** 2001. Effects of gull predation and weather on survival of Emperor Goose goslings. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 65(2): 248-257.
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Ross's Goose

Anser rossii [Cassin].

The vicinity of the R. Perry (Nunavut, N Canada). Winters California, New Mexico, US Gulf Coast & N Mexico.

Sometimes included in the genus *Chen*.

Bernard Rogan Ross (1827-1874), Irish trader who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.

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- Meininger, P.L.** 2004. Broedpoging van Ross' Gans in Haringvliet in 2003 [Breeding attempt of Ross's Goose at Haringvliet in 2003]. *Dutch Birding* 26(2): 111-113.
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Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens [Linnaeus].

[*A.c. caerulescens*] Wrangel Island (Arctic Ocean) and N Alaska E to S Baffin Island. Winters E coast USA, Gulf of Mexico, SW USA & N Mexico.

[*A.c. atlantica*] NE Canada, Baffin Island & Greenland. Winters E coast USA, Gulf of Mexico, SW USA & N Mexico.

Sometimes included in the genus *Chen*.

Other names: Greater Snow Goose (*atlanticus*), Lesser Snow Goose (*caerulescens*).

Blue phase individuals are predominately Lesser Snow Goose.

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Greylag Goose

Anser anser [Linnaeus].

[*A.a. anser*] Iceland, N and C Europe. Winters, although some populations sedentary, most move S especially to SW Spain.

[*A.a. rubrirostris*] C & E Europe and Asia. Winters, although some populations sedentary, most move S of breeding range.

[*A.a. domesticus*] Domesticated form, widely introduced.

Other name: Grey Goose.

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- Mitchell, C. et al.** 2012. The merging of populations of Greylag Geese breeding in Britain. *British Birds* 105(9): 498-505.
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- Owen, M. & Salmon, D.G.** 1988. Feral Greylag Geese *Anser anser* in Britain and Ireland, 1960-86. *Bird Study* 35: 37-45.
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Swan Goose

Anser cygnoides [Linnaeus].

Russia / Mongolia border area & N China. Winters C & E China and historically in Japan.

Other names: Chinese Goose (domesticated form), African Goose (domesticated form).

- Batbayar, N. et al.** 2013. Migration strategies of Swan Geese *Anser cygnoides* from northeast Mongolia. *Wildfowl* 61: 90-109.
- Fox, A.D. et al.** 2013. Preliminary observations of diurnal feeding patterns of Swan Geese *Anser cygnoides* using two different habitats at Shengjin Lake, Anhui Province, China. *Wildfowl* 58: 20-30.
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- Zhang, J.X. & Lu, J.J.** 1999. Feeding ecology of two wintering geese species at Poyang Lake, China. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 14(4): 439-445.
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Bean Geese

Taiga Bean Goose

Anser fabalis [Latham].

[*A.f. fabalis*] Scandinavia E to Ural Mts in the taiga region. Winters W & C Europe.

[*A.f. johanseni*] Ural Mts E to L Baikal in the W Siberian taiga region. Winters W China W to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Iran.

[*A.f. middendorffii*] E & N of L. Baikal E to the Pacific coast and S to the Altai & N Mongolia in the E Siberian taiga region. Winters E China & Japan.

Other names: Western Bean Goose (*fabalis*), Johansen's Bean Goose (*johanseni*), Middendorff's Bean Goose (*middendorffii*).

Hans Johansen (1897-1973), Danish-Russian Professor of Zoology at Tomsk State University and the University of Copenhagen.

Aleksandr Fedorovitch von Middendorf (1815-1894), German-Russian traveller and naturalist who was a member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences. He led the first expedition that reached peninsula Taimyr and the Amur region in Siberia.

Tundra Bean Goose

Anser serrirostris [Swinhoe].

[*A.s. serrirostris*] Lena Delta to Anadyrland in the E Siberian tundra region. Winters China, Korea & Japan.

[*A.s. rossicus*] Kanin to Taymyr peninsulas in the N Russia and NW Siberia tundra region. Winters W & SE Europe.

Other name: Thick-billed Bean Goose (*serrirostris*).

Bailey, A.M. 1956. The Bean Goose and other birds from St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. *The Auk* 73(4): 560.

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Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus [Baillon].

E Greenland, Iceland & Spitzbergen. Winters NW Europe.

- Bloomfield, A. & Smith, G.** 2002. The skein attraction. *Birdwatch* 125: 33-36.
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- Newton, S.F. et al.** 1990. Pink-footed Goose numbers at arrival sites in eastern and central Scotland. *Scottish Birds* 16: 35-36.
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White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons [Scopoli].

[*A.a. albifrons*] Kanin peninsula (N Russia) E to R Kolyma (Siberia). Winters W, C & SE Europe and S Asia.

[*A.a. flavirostris*] W Greenland. Winters Ireland & SW Scotland.

[*A.a. elgasii*] Vicinity of Cook Inlet (S Alaska). Winters Sacramento Valley & Suisun Bay (N & C California).

[*A.a. gambelli*] N Alaska E thru Arctic Canada to Hudson Bay. Winters Texas, Louisiana & NE Mexico.

[*A.a. sponsa*] Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (W Alaska) & Bristol Bay (SW Alaska). Winters California & W Mexico.

The proposed forms *frontalis* and *albicans* are synonyms of *A.a. gambelli* and *A.a. albifrons* respectively (Banks 2011).

Other names: Greater White-fronted Goose, Whitefront, Greenland White-fronted Goose (*flavirostris*), Russian White-fronted Goose (*albifrons*), Pacific White-fronted Goose (*frontalis*), Gambel White-fronted Goose (*gambelli*), Tule White-fronted Goose (*elgasii*), Tule Goose (*elgasii*).

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Crowe, O. 2010. Flagship species suffers decline. *Wings* 56: 15-17.

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Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus [Linnaeus].

Narrow band across Arctic Europe and Asia. Winters S Caspian lowlands, SE Europe, the area of the lower Euphrates on the Iran / Iraq border, Kazakhstan & SE China.

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Coscoroba Swan

Coscoroba coscoroba [Molina].

Tierra del Fuego N to C Chile & N Argentina. Winters N to SE Brazil.

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Black Swan

Cygnus atratus [Latham].

SW & E Australia, Tasmania and introduced as well as natural populations in New Zealand as well as introductions as an ornamental waterfowl in W Europe and elsewhere.

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Black-necked Swan

Cygnus melancoryphus [Molina].

Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego N to C Chile & Paraguay. Winters N to Paraná (SE Brazil).

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Mute Swan

Cygnus olor [Gmelin].

Britain & Ireland, C & N Europe E thru C Asia to E China. Feral populations in N America, Japan, South Africa, SW Australia & New Zealand.

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Trumpeter Swan

Cygnus buccinator [Richardson].

Alaska & W Canada and some resident populations in NW USA following reintroductions. Winters coastal S Alaska, British Columbia & N USA.

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Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus [Ord].

[*C.c. columbianus*] Tundra region of arctic N America. Winters W & coastal E USA.

[*C.c. bewickii*] Kola peninsula E thru arctic N Siberia. Winters in W Europe and S of Caspian Sea and E China, Korea & Japan.

Other name: Bewick's Swan (*bewickii*), Whistling Swan (*columbianus*).

Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), English ornithologist and engraver.

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Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus [Linnaeus].

Iceland & Scandinavia E to NE Siberia. Winters W & C Europe around Baltic Sea, North Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea & Aral Sea E to coastal China & Japan.

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