

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

This is the final version of the Geese and Swan's list, no further updates will be made. Grateful thanks to Alyn Walsh for the cover images and all those who responded with constructive feedback. All images © the photographer

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

Joe Hobbs

## Index

The general order of species follows the International Ornithologists' Union World Bird List (**Gill, F. & Donsker, D.** (eds.) 2019. IOC World Bird List. Available from: <https://www.worldbirdnames.org/> [version 9.1 accessed January 2019]).

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

## Final Version

Version 1.2 (May 2019).

## 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.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Bar-headed Goose [ <i>Anser indicus</i> ]	13
Barnacle Goose [ <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ]	12
Bean Geese [ <i>Anser fabalis / serrirostris</i> ]	7
Black-necked Swan [ <i>Cygnus melancoryphus</i> ]	22
Black Swan [ <i>Cygnus atratus</i> ]	22
Brent Goose [ <i>Branta bernicla</i> ]	6
Cackling Goose [ <i>Branta hutchinsii</i> ]	10
Canada Goose [ <i>Branta canadensis</i> ]	10
Cape Barren Goose [ <i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i> ]	5
Coscoroba Swan [ <i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i> ]	22
Emperor Goose [ <i>Anser canagica</i> ]	13
Greylag Goose [ <i>Anser anser</i> ]	16
Hawaiian Goose [ <i>Branta sandvicensis</i> ]	9
Lesser White-fronted Goose [ <i>Anser erythropus</i> ]	21
Mute Swan [ <i>Cygnus olor</i> ]	23
Pink-footed Goose [ <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ]	19
Red-breasted Goose [ <i>Branta ruficollis</i> ]	8
Ross's Goose [ <i>Anser rossii</i> ]	14
Snow Goose [ <i>Anser caerulescens</i> ]	14

Swan Goose [ <i>Anser cygnoides</i> ]	17
Taiga Bean Goose [ <i>Anser fabalis</i> ]	18
Trumpeter Swan [ <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> ]	24
Tundra Bean Goose [ <i>Anser serrirostris</i> ]	18
Tundra Swan [ <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> ]	25
White-fronted Goose [ <i>Anser albifrons</i> ]	20
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: Brant Goose, 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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- Winkel, E. & de Weerd, E.** 2007. Barnacle Goose in Golestan, Iran, in January 2007. *British Birds* 29(2): 91-92.

## 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*.

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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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## 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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- Lyll, B.A.** 1960. Snow Goose in Aberdeenshire. *Scottish Birds* 1: 185.
- Mooij, J.** 2011. Greater Snow Goose population does not decrease in spite of management measures. *Goose Bulletin* 12: 40.
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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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- Browne, A.M. et al.** 1999. Introduced Canada *Branta canadensis* and Greylag Goose *Anser anser* populations in Ireland, 1994. *Irish Birds* 6(2): 233-236.
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- Lebret, T. & Timmerman, A.** 1968. A concentration of Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*) in wing moult in The Netherlands. *Limosa* 41: 2-17.
- Lebret, T.** 1970. Nocturnal feeding and other activities of the Greylag Goose *Anser anser* in fresh water tidal habitat in the Netherlands. *Limosa* 43: 11-30.
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- Meek, E.R.** 2003. The status of the Greylag Goose in Orkney. *Orkney Bird Report 2002* pp. 82-85.
- Merne, O.J.** 1986. Greylag Geese in Ireland, March 1986. *Irish Birds* 3(2): 207-214.
- 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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- Ogilvie, M.A.** 1980. Mystery photographs: Pink-footed Geese and Greylag Geese. *British Birds* 73(11): 535-536.
- Oliver, P.J.** 1997. The breeding birds of Inner London, 1966-94. *British Birds* 90(6): 211-225 (216).
- Owen, M. & Salmon, D.G.** 1988. Feral Greylag Geese *Anser anser* in Britain and Ireland, 1960-86. *Bird Study* 35: 37-45.
- Pennington, M.G.** 1995. Notes: Greylag Goose fledging in company of Oystercatchers. *British Birds* 88(9): 423-424.
- Randler, C.** 1998. Letters: Hybrid waterfowl in western Central Europe. *British Birds* 91(12): 573-574.
- Randler, C.** 2005. Eye preference for vigilance during feeding in coot *Fulica atra*, and geese *Anser anser* and *Anser cygnoides*. *Laterality* 10(6): 535-543.
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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).

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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40657-018-0134-5>
- Batbayar, N. et al.** 2013. Migration strategies of Swan Geese *Anser cygnoides* from northeast Mongolia. *Wildfowl* 61: 90-109.
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- 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.
- Gombobaatar, S. et al.** 2003. Current status of research and future trends of Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* and Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* in Mongolia, pp. 79-82. Found in: *2003 International Anatidae Symposium in East Asia & Siberia Region*. Seosan, Korea.
- Goroshko, O.A.** 2001. Swan Goose in the Eastern Transbaikalia and Mongolia. *Casarca* 7: 68-98.
- Masterov, V.B. & Poyarkov, N.D.** 1997. New breeding locations of the Swan Geese (*Anser cygnoides*) in the Low Amur River. *Casarca* 3: 379-380.
- Poyarkov, N.D.** The Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* research and conservation programme in Russia, pp. 482-483. Found in: **Boere, C.A. et al.** (eds.) 2006. *Waterbirds Around the World*. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK.
- Poyarkov, N.D.** 2001. The Swan-Goose: its origin, number dynamics, biology, and conservation. *Casarca* 7: 51-67 [in Russian with English summary].
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- Poyarkov, N.D. et al.** 2010. Genetic diversity of swan goose (*Anser cygnoides* L.) in Russia: Analysis of the mitochondrial DNA control region polymorphism. *Russian Journal of Genetics* 46(4): 493-496.
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- Vinicombe, K. et al.** 1993. Review of status and categorisation of feral birds on the British List. *British Birds* 86(12): 605-614 (606).
- Wassink, A.** 2009. Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 2. *Dutch Birding* 31(2): 101-110 (101).
- Wójcik, E. & Smalec, E.** 2008. Description of the *Anser cygnoides* goose karyotype. *Folia Biologica* 56(1-2): 37-42.
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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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- Zhao Jin-Sheng** 2002. An extremely large wintering group of Swan Goose was found at Poyang Lake. *China Crane News* 6(1): 36-37.

## 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 Fedorovitsh 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.

**Benstead, P.** 2005. Where to watch birds: The Yare Valley. *Birdwatch* 162: 15.

**Burgers, J. et al.** 1991. Origins and systematics of two types of the Bean Goose *Anser arvensis* (Latham, 1787) wintering in the Netherlands. *Ardea* 79: 307-316.

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**Dowdall, J.F. & Larrisey, E.** 2000. Tundra Bean Goose in County Louth - a race new to Ireland. *Irish Birds* 6(3): 432-433.

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**Hearn, R.D.** 2004. *Bean Goose Anser fabalis in Britain and Ireland 1960/61 – 1999/2000*. Waterbird Review Series, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

**Kist, J.** 1956. Het voorkomen van de rassen van de Rietgans, *Anser fabalis*, in Nederland [Distribution of subspecies of Bean Goose in The Netherlands]. *Ardea* 44(1-3): 188-206.

**Mitchell, C.** 2010. *The design of a monitoring programme for Bean Geese on the Slamannan Plateau*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.389.

**Mlodinow, S.G.** 2004. Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) at Hoquiam, Washington: a first state record. *North American Birds* 58(2): 298-300.

**Noeske, A.** 1990. Letters: The occurrence of 'Russian' Bean Geese in Britain. *British Birds* 83(12): 556-560.

**Oates, J.** 1997. Identification of Taiga Bean Goose and Tundra Bean Goose. *Birding World* 10(11): 421-426.

**Ogilvie, M.A. & Wallace, D.I.M.** 1975. Field identification of grey geese. *British Birds* 68(2): 57-67.

**Parslow-Otsu, M.** 1991. Bean Geese in the Yare Valley, Norfolk. *British Birds* 84(5): 161-170.

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**Roselaar, C.S. & Aliabadian, M.** 2009. Review of rare birds in Iran, 1860s-1960s. *Podoces* 4(1): 1-27 (7).

**Ruokonen, M. & Aarvak, T.** 2011. Typology revisited: historical taxa of the bean goose – pink-footed goose complex. *Ardea* 99: 103-112.

**Rutledge, R.F. & Watt, R.H.** 1958. The Distribution and Status of Wild Geese in Ireland. *Bird Study* 5(1): 22-33.

**Sangster, G. & Oreel, G.J.** 1996. Trends in systematics - Progress in taxonomy of Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese. *Dutch Birding* 18(6): 310-316.

**Scott, D.A.** 2008. Rare birds in Iran in the late 1960s and 1970s. *Podoces* 3(1-2): 1-30 (7).

- Sladen, W.J.L.** 1966. Additions to the Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, Including Five Species New to North America. *The Auk* 83(1): 130-135 (130).
- Smith, P.H. & Forshaw, W.D.** 1988. Notes: Occurrence of 'Russian' Bean Geese in Lancashire / Merseyside. *British Birds* 81(2): 68-70.
- Smith, P.H. & Forshaw, W.D.** 1991. Letter: The occurrence of 'Russian' Bean Geese in Britain. *British Birds* 81(2): 68-70.
- Stoddart, A.** 2013. Identification: Pink-footed, Tundra Bean and Taiga Bean Geese Photo Guide. *Birdwatch* 259: 45-51.
- Vinicombe, K.** 2003. Identification matters: Counting beans. *Birdwatch* 129: 26-29.
- Vinicombe, K.** 2005. ID at a glance: Pink-footed and bean geese. *Birdwatch* 161: 24-25.
- Wassink, A.** 2016. Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 7. *Dutch Birding* 38(6): 388-392 (388).
- Wilson, B.** 1985. Bean Goose in the Midlands. *Iowa Bird Life* 55: 83-86.

## 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.
- Bloomfield, A.** 2013. Notes: Breeding Pink-footed Geese in Norfolk in 1999. *British Birds* 106(3): 165.
- Brown, A.W. & Brown, L.M.** 1992. Development of an internationally important Pink-footed Goose roost at West Water Reservoir, Borders Region, 1966-1990. *Scottish Birds* 16: 260-268.
- Caton Haigh, G.H.** 1935. Notes: On Pink-footed Geese. *British Birds* 28(12): 368-370.
- Cutts, C. & Speakman, J.** 1994. Energy savings in formation flight of pink-footed geese. *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 189(1): 251-261.
- Hearn, R.** 2000. Expeditions: Chasing the wild geese. *Birdwatch* 91: 34-39.
- Hurst, J. & Bloomfield, A.** 2014. Notes: Pink-footed Geese struck by lightning in winter storm. *British Birds* 107(8): 485.
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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. elgasi*] 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 (*gambeli*), Tule White-fronted Goose (*elgasi*), Tule Goose (*elgasi*).

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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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