

Brant
17 Mar 1916
Charles City, Floyd Co., IA
C. L. Fenton
Fenton 1916, 1922-23, Gabrielson 1917

Record Number: 81-JW
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Fenton, C.L. 1916. A preliminary list of the birds of Floyd County Iowa. Wilson Bull. 28:130-138.

Fenton, C.L. 1922-23.

Gabrielson, I.N. 1917. A criticism of two recent lists of Iowa birds. Wilson Bull. 29:97-100.

VOTE (1981): 1-IV, 3-V, 3-VI

VI, 'rather common migrant' suggests imm. or intergrade Blue Geese. Gabrielson is right.

IV, possible (despite Gabrielson), but no description.

Brant

Fenton, C. L. 1916. A preliminary list of the birds of Floyd County Iowa.
Wilson Bull 28:130-138.

27. *Branta bernicla glaucogastra*—Brant. A rather uncommon migrant, though Mr. Webster states that the species was, during the days of the early settlements, a very common migrant. My latest record is March 17th, 1916.

28. *Branta nigricans*—Black Brant. A rare migrant. Latest date, March, 1915; near Charles City; John R. Waller.

Fenton, C. L. 1922-23.

32. *Branta bernicla glaucogastra* (Brehm.) Brant. There may be some question as to the reliability of various records of this rare migrant. I have what I think is a reliable record for March 17, 1916; five birds on the Cedar River, near Charles City.

Gabrielson, I. N. 1917. A criticism of two recent lists of Iowa birds.
Wilson Bull 29:97-100.

3. *Branta bernicla glaucogastra*.—Brant.

Anderson (op. cit., p. 189) does not list an existing specimen for the State and only one of the "records" reported related to specimens actually handled. Kumlien and Hollister¹ were able to find only one authentic record for Wisconsin. There is one definite record for Nebraska² and two for Michigan.³ These are the only records based on actual specimens that I am able to find in the State lists for the surrounding region. Upon investigation, all of the other rather numerous reports of the occurrence of the brant have been found to refer to other species. Those most commonly recorded as brant are the dark immature birds of the Snow and Blue Geese. These are often called Brant in the Middle West and the records in the paper under discussion probably are referable to one of these forms. Whatever these birds may have been, the evidence presented by Mr. Fenton seems insufficient as a basis for recording the occurrence of the Brant in Iowa.

4. *Branta nigricans*.—Black Brant.

So far as I am aware, there is not a single authentic record of the species in the Mississippi Valley. It is not mentioned (even in the hypothetical list) in any of the State lists for that region except in Hatch's "Birds of Minnesota" and he gives no dates or specimens. In any case this species and *B. c. glaucogastra* resemble each other very closely and could not be distinguished in the field except by one intimately acquainted with both forms. This record, if valid, would add a species to the Iowa list, but it cannot be accepted in the absence of specimens identified by a competent ornithologist.