

Two new specimen records for insular Newfoundland: Barnacle Goose and Tricolored Heron

W. A. Montevicchi and J. Wells

IN LATE FALL 1981, a pair of Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) was shot by a hunter at Ladle Cove (49°28'N, 54°04'W), on the northeast coast of Newfoundland. The bird judged to be larger by the hunter carried a large yellow plastic band (code CJ1) and a metal band (No. 327105) from the Stavanger Museum of Norway. Dr. Olav. J. Runde of the Stavanger Museum has informed us that the banded Barnacle Goose was a male tagged at 2+ years of age on July 19, 1977, on Nordenskioldkysten, Spitsbergen, Svalbard (49°27'N, 54°03'W). According to the Canadian Wildlife Service Banding Office in Ottawa, there have been no other band recoveries of wild Barnacle Geese in Canada, and to our knowledge this is the first recovery for North America.

Although the species has not been previously reported on insular Newfoundland, there are a number of reports from other North American localities. Todd (1963) records a sighting from Okak, Labrador, over 100 years ago, and there are at least four records from Quebec (Todd 1963, Godfrey 1966). On November 20, 1969, a flock of seven was sighted at Port Herbert Harbour, Nova Scotia (Tufts 1973), and on May 10, 1972, a single bird was seen at Sheffield, New Brunswick (Squires 1976). Barnacle Geese have also been reported from Bylot Island, Baffin Island, Kingsville, Ontario, and Alberta (Godfrey 1966, Palmer 1976). Palmer (1976) and Peterson (1980) list sightings from Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas and Alaska, but caution that many records of these geese, which are popular birds among aviculturalists, may have been of aviary escapes.

Barnacle Geese usually begin breeding at two to three years of age, pair monoga-

mously for life, and tend to travel with mates outside the breeding season (Palmer 1976, Cramp and Simmons 1977). It is possible that the two birds shot in Newfoundland were mated. In September, Barnacle Geese migrate south from Spitsbergen, following the Norwegian coast then crossing the North Sea into Great Britain, where numbers peak in October (Cramp and Simmons 1977).

DURING SEPTEMBER 1982, we received some plumes from a heron that had been found dead during June 1982 on a beach in Rushoon (47°21'N, 54°55'W), Burin Peninsula, on the south coast of Newfoundland. Dr. Earl Godfrey confirmed that they were dorsal plumes from a Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). One plume is on file at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and another in the

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National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. This record was not entirely unexpected, since a Tricolored Heron was observed on the nearby French Island of Miquelon, off the southwest tip of the Burin Peninsula, from April 20 to May 11, 1979, by Roger Etcheberry (*pers. comm.*). During the summer of 1981, a Tricolored Heron was observed by Canadian Wildlife Service field workers in Cartwright, Labrador (P. Linegar, *pers. comm.*). The species has also occurred in New Brunswick and Ontario (Godfrey 1966), and a bird was photographed on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, May 18-20, 1979 (B. Mactavish, *pers. comm.*).

These records represent the 312th and 313th species additions to the Field Checklist of the Birds of Insular Newfoundland (Maunder and Montevecchi 1982).

We are grateful to Mr. George Brinson for information about the Barnacle

Geese, to Mr. Douglas Tulk for allowing examination of his Barnacle Goose specimen, to Mr. Albert Rogers for sending plumes from the Tricolored Heron, to Dr. W. Earl Godfrey for confirming the identification of the heron plumes, to Dr. O. J. Runde for providing banding information and to President Leslie Harris of Memorial University of Newfoundland for Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) support via a President's Grant for work on the Birds of Insular Newfoundland project.

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