

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 2016 & 2017 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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The general order of species follows the International Ornithologists' Union World Bird List (**Gill, F. & Donsker, D.** (eds.) 2016. IOC World Bird List. Available from: <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/> [version 6.1 accessed February 2016]).

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

## Version

Version 1.0 (April 2016).

## 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.

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## Cape Barren Goose

- Cereopsis novaehollandiae** [Latham 1801, New South Wales = islands of Bass Strait]. [*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. Other name: Cereopsis Goose.
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## Swan Goose

**Anser cygnoides** [Linnaeus 1758, Asia].

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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## Bean Geese

### Taiga Bean Goose

**Anser fabalis** [Latham 1787, Britain].

[*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 1871].

[*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*).

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

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

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## Pink-footed Goose

*Anser brachyrhynchus* [Baillon 1834, Abbeville, lower River Somme, France].  
E Greenland, Iceland & Spitzbergen. Winters NW Europe.

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## Greylag Goose

**Anser anser** [Linnaeus 1758, Europe and northern North America].

[*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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## White-fronted Goose

**Anser albifrons** [Scopoli 1769, N Italy].

[*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 1758, N Sweden].

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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- Vinicombe, K. et al** 1993. Review of status and categorisation of feral birds on the British List. *British Birds* 86(12): 605-614 (610).
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## Bar-headed Goose

**Anser indicus** [Latham 1790, India in winter and Tibet].

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).
- Bailey, F.M.** 1909. The nesting of the Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) in Tibet. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 19(2): 367-369.
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- Scott, G.R. et al** 2015. How Bar-headed Geese fly over the Himalayas. *Physiology* 30(2): 107-115.
- Srinivasan, U. et al** 2010. The birds of Namdapha National Park and surrounding areas: recent significant records and a checklist of the species. *Forktail* 26: 92-116 (110).
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- Zhang, J. et al** 1996. The crystal structure of a high oxygen affinity species of haemoglobin (bar-headed goose haemoglobin in the oxy form). *Journal of Molecular Biology* 255(3): 484-493.

## Snow Goose

**Chen caerulescens** [Linnaeus 1758, Hudson Bay].

[*C.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.

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

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

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

Blue phase individuals are predominately Lesser Snow Goose.

- Abraham, K.F. et al** 1981. Re-mating of a Lesser Snow Goose. *The Wilson Bulletin* 93(4): 557-559.
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- Cooke, F. et al** 1981. Mate change and reproductive success in the Lesser Snow Goose. *The Condor* 83(4): 322-327.
- Ebels, E.B.** 1999. Sneeuwgans met Noorse halsring in Flevoland in september-oktober 1998 [Snow Goose with Norwegian neck band in Flevoland in September-October 1998]. *Dutch Birding* 21(2): 97-99.
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- Jónsson, J.E. & Afton, A.D.** 2008. Lesser Snow Geese and Ross's Geese form mixed flocks during winter but differ in family maintenance and social status. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120(4): 725-731.
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- Kenyon, K.W. & Brooks, J.W.** 1960. Birds of Little Diomed Island, Alaska. *The Condor* 62(6): 457-463 (459).
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## Ross's Goose

***Chen rossii*** [Cassin 1861, Great Slave Lake].

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

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

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

- Alisauskas, R.T. et al** 1998. Discrimination of Ross' and lesser snow goose eggs. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 69: 647-653.
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- Cooke, F. & Ryder, J.P.** 1971. The genetics of polymorphism in the Ross's Goose. *Evolution* 25: 483-490.
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## Emperor Goose

***Chen canagica*** [Sevastianov 1802, Kanaga Island, Aleutian Islands].

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

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

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## Canada Geese

### Canada Goose

***Branta canadensis*** [Linnaeus 1758, Canada]

[*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*), Moffitt'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 1832, Canada]

[*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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## Hawaiian Goose

***Branta sandvicensis*** [Vigors 1833, Hawaiian Islands].

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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## Brent Goose

***Branta bernicla*** [Linnaeus, 1758, Europe].

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

[*B.b. hrota*] N Canada & Greenland. Winters, Cape Cod S to North Carolina (Canadian *hrota*) and Ireland (Greenland *hrota*).

[*B.b. orientalis*] Extreme NE Siberia E to NC Canada. Winters British Columbia S to Baja California.

[*B.b. nigricans*] Melville Island (Arctic Canada). Winters Puget Sound (W coast of North America on either side of the USA - Canada border).

Note: *B.b. nigricans* was previously reserved for Black Brant, however the type specimen (collected in New Jersey, USA in 1846) can be equated to a previously unnamed form, i.e. Grey-bellied Brent Goose (aka Lawrence's Brent Goose). Following this correction, the type specimen of *nigricans* (Black Brant) inherits *orientalis* after a specimen collected in Siberia in 1941.

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

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## Barnacle Goose

***Branta leucopsis*** [Bechstein 1803, Germany].

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

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### Red-breasted Goose

***Branta ruficollis*** [Pallas 1769, lower Ob, Siberia].

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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- Watson, G.E.** 1961. Aegean bird notes including two breeding records new to Europe. *Journal für Ornithologie* 102(3): 301-307 (301).

## Coscoroba Swan

**Coscoroba coscoroba** [Molina 1782, Chile].

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

- Montalti, D. et al** 1999. New records of vagrant birds in the South Atlantic and in the Antarctic. *Polish Polar Research* 20(4): 347-354 (351).
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## Black Swan

**Cygnus atratus** [Latham 1790, lakes in Australia].

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.

- Blamire, S.** 2010. Note: Interactions between breeding Black Swans and Mute Swans in Cheshire & Wirral. *British Birds* 103(3): 194-195.
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## Black-necked Swan

**Cygnus melancoryphus** [Molina 1782, Chile].

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 1789, Russia].

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

- Beven, G.** 1980. Notes: Coot feeding on weed disturbed by Mute Swans. *British Birds* 73(5): 219-220.
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- Campbell, W.D.** 1980. Notes: Posture of Mute Swan. *British Birds* 73(5): 218.
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- Edwards, S.** 2012. Notes: Mute Swans eating blackberries. *British Birds* 105(3): 159.
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- Forsyth, I.** 1980. A Breeding Census of Mute Swans in Ireland in 1978. *Irish Birds* 1(4): 492-501.
- Hiley, P.D.** 1969. Notes: Mute Swan sunbathing. *British Birds* 62(3): 115.
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- Huxley, J.S.** 1947. Display of the Mute Swan. *British Birds* 40(5): 130-134.
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## Trumpeter Swan

***Cygnus buccinator*** [Richardson 1832, Hudson Bay].

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

- Barrett, V.A. & Vyse, E.R.** 1982. Comparative genetics of three Trumpeter Swan populations. *The Auk* 99(1): 103-108.
- Coale, H.K.** 1915. The present status of the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*). *The Auk* 32(1): 82-90.
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- Zimmerman, D.A.** 1978. A definite record of the Trumpeter Swan from New Mexico. *Western Birds* 9(2): 90.



## Tundra Swan

**Cygnus columbianus** [Ord 1815, The Dalles, Oregon].

[*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.

- Beekman, J.H.** 1997. International censuses of the North-west European Bewick's Swan population, January 1990 and 1995. *Swan Specialist Group Newsletter* 6: 7-9.
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- Evans, M.E.** 1979. The effects of weather on the wintering of Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* at Slimbridge, England. *Ornis Scandinavica* 10(1): 124-132.
- Guex, C.** 1982. Bewick's Swan with orange-yellow legs and feet. *Dutch Birding* 4(2): 54.
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- Kemp, J.B. & Revett, J.** 1992. Notes: 'Water-boiling' display by Whooper and Bewick's Swans. *British Birds* 85(8): 463-464.
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## Whooper Swan

***Cygnus cygnus*** [Linnaeus 1758, Sweden].

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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