

who confirmed the identification. The bird was also seen on 17 May by Al Stokie, Eric Walters, and Wes Serafin. The White-faced Ibis is considered a rare vagrant in Illinois with almost all sightings occur in spring (Bohlen, 1989).

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Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.



Adult White-faced Ibis at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Grundy Co., first Grundy County record. 16 May 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Greater White-fronted Goose at Chicago in Mid-May

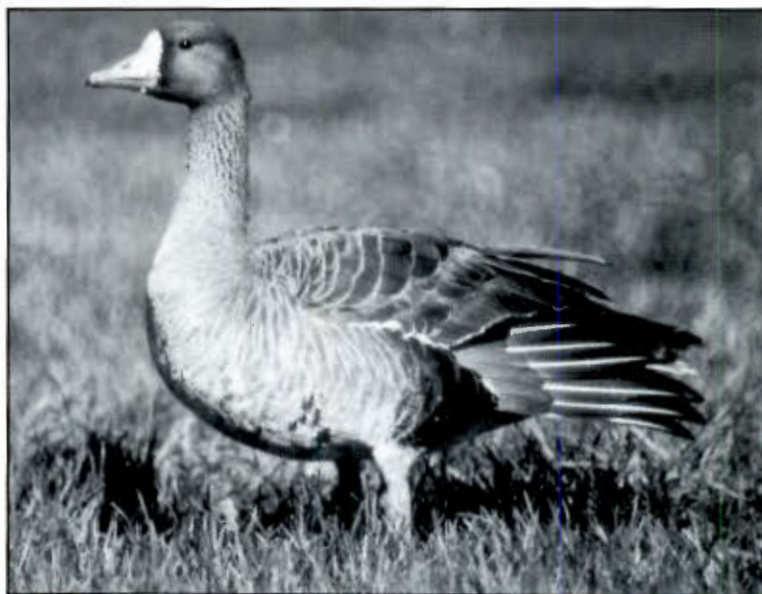
An unbanded, free-flying Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) was seen on the remarkably late dates of 14-15 May, 1995, at Jackson Park on Chicago's south side. This appears to represent the latest valid spring date for this species in Illinois. Bohlen (1989) cited three May dates, the latest on 10 May 1986. He also noted a record from 6-12 June 1982, but stated that the origin of the bird was "in question." As is typical of errant white-fronts, the Jackson Park bird associated with a flock of Canada Geese. I observed it with John Harshman the morning of 15 May, as it fed and preened in undisturbed waters at Wooded Island's east lagoon.

Later that afternoon, Tom Jackman found the bird on the Museum of Science and Industry's reflecting pond. Jackman also saw it with the resident Canada Geese. It was the last bird to leave the water to graze on the lawn, and when a dog appeared, it was the first bird to fly. Jackman obtained photographs which revealed the condition of the flight feathers; they showed normal wear for a wild individual and lacked the tattered edges typical of captive birds.

Mid-May 1995 weather conditions were ideally

suited to usher in late western migrants. Unusually cool and wet weather in late April forestalled migration, yielding a remarkable number of late dates. Southwest winds prevailed for three days leading up to the bird's visit, then shifted northwest on 14 May, gusting to 25 mph.

One observation detail, the orange bill, was initially disconcerting; *The National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America* said that an orange bill is diagnostic of the Greenland race of Greater White-fronted Goose, an unlikely Illinois vagrant, especially given the prevailing winds. It was with some comfort that I read Kenn Kaufman's discussion of the Greenland subspecies of the Greater White-fronted Goose in the December 1994 issue of *Birding*. Kaufman found that, more often than not, observers pressed to address bill color of white-fronts in western North America, described the bill as orange, not pink as depicted in the



Greater White-fronted Goose, Jackson Park, Cook Co., 14 May 1995, latest spring date for Illinois. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

field guides, and that there are no published diagnostic field marks for North American versus Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese.

Thanks to John Harshman who discovered the bird, to Tom Jackman for sharing photographs on behavior observations, and to David Mandell for calling Kaufman's article to my attention.

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