

Notes:

ABNORMAL MID-MAY OCCURRENCE OF WHITE-FRONTED GESE IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA. - On May 16, 1977 while conducting waterfowl surveys in central North Dakota, we observed a pair of White-fronted Geese on a 140 acre alkaline lake. This lake, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a waterfowl production area, is located in Section 22 SW, T145N, R75W, in southern Sheridan County.

Both birds were watched for several minutes through 10 x 50 binoculars and a zoom (20-45x) spotting scope as they swam together along the far shore of the lake. Eventually they became alarmed and took flight. At that point we became aware that one bird was missing a number of primaries from one wing. These lost feathers apparently hampered the bird's flight for it progressively lost ground on the other bird as they circled and flew off to the northwest. Approximately a half hour later both birds were flushed from a wheat field one half mile from the original point of observation. This time they flew about 400 meters and alit in another wheat field where they resumed feeding.

White-fronted geese normally complete their migration through North Dakota by the end of April and these birds were the only ones seen during two weeks of intensive waterfowl surveys conducted in central North Dakota in mid-May. The late date of this sighting was probably due to the impaired flight of one member of the pair. The behavior of these birds seems to indicate that they intended to summer in this area. It is unlikely that nesting would be attempted since the normal breeding range of this species is restricted to northern Alaska and arctic Canada.—*Douglas P. Kibbe, 1550 Yosemite, Denver, Colorado 80220 and Jerry A. Roppe, 11955 SWsummercrest Dr., Tigard, Oregon 97223,*