

Bertelsen, A. 1921. Fuglene I Umanaq Distrikt. *Meddelelser on Grønland* LXII: 139-215.

English translation by Mia and Tony Fox

[Section] 10. **White-fronted Goose.** Nerdlernaq, i.e. not the true “Nerdleq” which refers to Pink-footed Goose

Vanhöffen saw White-fronted Geese shot in the inner part of Umánaq (now Uummannaq) Bay 1893. Single pairs of WFG are seen annually in the Uummannaq District, particularly in the second half of May. A head (bill length 51 mm) of White-fronted Goose I have sent to Zoological Museum, originating from a bird shot at Ikerasak 25 May 1914.

It is not impossible that in some years, pairs of White-fronted Geese breed in the Uummannaq District. I have heard Greenlanders tell that the species has bred in the country before 158¹, but without knowing how true this might be.

In the Christianshåb² area, it appears in much greater numbers; it occurs annually as far north as Jakobshavn (69°13'N). 20-30 km east of Ikamiut (Qasigiannuit District) there are many lakes of the type that the White-fronted Geese prefer. For example, in 1904 a boat came home from there with c.200 geese; a man in a kajak had taken 45 flightless geese just on his own, which he had captured just by rowing after them, catching them and breaking their necks. In a little lake about 15 km in the bottom of Salmon Bay (Laksebugten) north of Qasigiannuit, the local “colony manager”, O. Mathiesen, had seen 20 flightless geese in the middle of August 1894. When the hunters attempted to catch the geese by hiding and then stealthily approaching them, the geese saw them at a distance of 300 m and ran up onto land and completely vanished. However, out of the five nearly fully grown young in the group, three of them were caught when they were pressed up onto land together and ran ahead of the pursuing hunters, making no attempt to hide. In July, the downy young are usually seen on the lakes of the area – often with the flightless older birds and the Greenlanders from Qasigiannuit can in the course of summer come and catch these and offer the Europeans that live in the village, dozens of living young White-fronted goslings to raise in captivity.

Summary: In Uummannaq District is the White-fronted Goose an annual but rarely occurring migrant bird, that however sometimes breeds in the area.

¹ Presumably 1858

² now Qasigiannuit