

### New Bird for The Bahamas Discovered in Treasure Cay

Never before has a Greater White-fronted Goose been recorded in The Bahama Islands but in the last days of February golfers noted a large brown goose with orange legs and bill on the pond by #11 on the Treasure Cay Golf Course.

I couldn't believe this unexpected species when I first saw it on March 1st. It was very wary - not a domestic goose. The Graylag Goose of Europe looks superficially like it. Those that have been domesticated have been selected to produce albanistic offspring hence our white domestic geese with orange legs and bill.

The Greater White-fronted Goose breeds in the tundra of the high arctic in Alaska, Northwest Territory of Canada and Greenland. It normally migrates to and from its wintering grounds in Louisiana, Texas and Mexico through the center of the US. Already migrants are being seen on this route but with the high NW winds we've been having this one obviously got blown off course. It flies very well and this individual should be able to find its way home. We're not sure exactly how these birds navigate.

The adults of many species generally go first so the juveniles can feed and mature before they leave in the fall for warmer climes. No one has to show them the way- they just know! Lets hope this one just knows his way back north, but it's been nice having him or her- can't tell them apart- visit us here on Abaco. Abaconians are such good hosts!

Elwood D. Bracey, MD  
Photo Credits Uli Nowlan

