

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Ross' Goose How many? 1

Location? Westoverlark, Conaleske Res, Johnson Co., Iowa

Type of Habitat? reservoir above dam

When? date(s): 2 March 1990 time: 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A small all-white goose except for black primaries and dark bill.

Slightly larger (length, body) than female Common Merganser. About half height of ~~greater~~ great Canada Goose. Smaller than White-fronted Goose - closer in size to Merganser. Rounded head with sharp angle between bill and forehead. Eye about level of bill in mid-face. Small triangular bill without gorm mark. Couldn't tell if blue at base of bill.

Bird standing and squatting on a spit with other geese and ducks.

3 March 8:15 a.m. Goose swimming with white front.  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as body - size  $\frac{2}{3}$  that of White-front. Bill only about as big as distal  $\frac{1}{2}$  of White-front's bill. Short neck. Bill orange. With good light and right angle, I saw blue base to mandible. No gorm mark.

Similar species; how eliminated: Size, bill shape and size, head shape used to separate from Snow Goose.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Clear, sun mostly behind me. About 200 yards (est). 20x scope and Quantar

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen a number in Iowa.

I know of no other records for Johnson Co.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None. Look at *Nature Geographic* Guide after making notes.

How long before field notes made? Whole View this form completed? 2 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).