

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ross' Gooch How many? 2 (separately)Location? De Soto NWRType of habitat? See belowWhen? date(s): 7 Nov 1982 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: James Dinmore, Dept Animal Ecology, ISUothers with you: Bird 1 - Mark Dinmore, Bird 2 - Steve Dinmore, George Brown

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird 1 - ca 200pm - for about 2 minutes

In open field inside expanse of refuge (in Neb), with flock of 20,000+ Snow Geese
 Bird seen along edge of flock. Looked like other Snow Geese but its smaller bill attracted my attention.
 It then walked back along with other geese and I had a good side by side comparison. It was
 perhaps 2/3 the size of other Snow Geese, bill much shorter, more abrupt in profile and not the
 pink color of other geese

Bird 2 - ca 3 pm. - for ca 5 minutes

On open water in front of visitors center (in IA), with large flock of 30,000+ Snow Geese
 Bird near edge of flock, actively preening so it could be picked out repeatedly as several viewers looked
 at bird. Had good comparison with other Snow Geese. This bird was noticeably smaller, had a smaller,
 shorter bill that was not bright pink but more dark in color. Color like Snow Geese but had faint
 black "cap" on back of head.

Similar species and how eliminated: Snow Geese - smaller, in size, bill smaller and shorter

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

20 power spotting scope - estimated 50 yds to bird 1, 100 yds to bird 2

both in sunlight conditions, under good light

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have handled several stud. skins of Ross' and
 have seen them in 2005

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 1 week

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