

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Ross' Goose (Chen rossii) 2. Number 1  
3. Location Willow Slough - Mill Co. Iowa  
4. Date: March 30, 1984 5. Time Bird Seen: 2:15 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.  
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Basically the bird appeared to be a much smaller, shorter necked version of the snow goose (white phase) with a small pushed-in bill. Bird was swimming with a "blue" snow and was at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  smaller.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD  
8. Description of behavior: Resting with large flock of snow geese.  
9. Habitat - general: Man-made marsh  
specific: Edge of marsh  
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
SNOW GOOSE is larger, has more pronounced bill and shows a grinning patch.  
11. Distance (how measured)? 150 yd. 12. Optical equipment:  
25X SCOPE  
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Partly cloudy  
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I saw one other Ross' in same place 2 years ago.  
15. Other observers: Francis Moore  
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes  
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 week

Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.  
Date: April 8, 1984 City, State: Waterloo Iowa