

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Ross' Goose

How Many? 1 ad.

Location? Bays Branch W.M.A., Guthrie Co.

Habitat? with other geese in goose pen area

Date? 6 May 1988 (stayed through 22 May)

Time? 12:50-6:30 p.m.

Observers Name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird: Bob Myers, Eugene & Eloise Armstrong, Jim Dinsmore

Description of bird: The bird was sitting next to a Snow Goose and was slightly smaller and shorter necked. The most obvious feature of the bird was the bill. The bill was very short, triangular shaped, and was covered with bluish bumps near the base. The bill also lacked a "grin" patch. Otherwise, the bird was entirely white except for black primary feathers. The legs were bright pink. The small size, very typical Ross' Goose bill, and bright pink legs eliminates the possibility of a hybrid Snow X Ross' Goose.

Similar species and how eliminated: Snow Goose eliminated by the size, bill shape and size, and by the lack of a "grin" patch.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent. I watched the bird from as close as 30-40 feet. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope and Nikon 8x23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: I have seen numerous Ross' and Snow geese in Iowa, including unprecedented numbers of both in central Iowa this spring.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes were made? none made

How long before this form was completed? written on 7 May 1988