

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Ross' Goose 2. Number 1
3. Location Willow Slough (SW Iowa)
4. Date: 3-28-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 7:15 AM to 7:20 A.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):
1. Goose was very small - about same size as mallards also present - only slightly larger than shovlers present. Most of the snows were out feeding in the fields and the few that were left on the marsh were behind Ross's by about 20 yd. - Even at that distance they seemed bigger.
  2. Bird was white with black primary feathers - The white did not seem as bright as the white on the snows.
  3. Length of neck seemed shorter (stubbier) in proportion to size of bird than in snow geese.
  4. Bill was flesh colored and very stubby - There were not "black lips" or "grinning patch" Bill seemed to be joined to head in a straight line not at angle like snows
  5. Eye was dark
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: Bird was sitting on a mudflat at edge of water with some mallards and shovlers
9. Habitat - general: marsh at very low water level  
specific: mud flat
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
snow goose is bigger - has grinning patch - has longer neck
11. Distance (how measured)? 100' or a little less (maybe 75')
12. Optical equipment: 20X spotting scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Bright overcast - good light - sun not a factor but was to my right
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
None - I have looked through thousands of snows trying to find one.
15. Other observers: None
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Peterson - Field Guide To Birds  
Robbins - Birds of North America
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 days
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: 3-31-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa, 50701

