

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ross' Goose (Chen rossii) How many? 1Location? Willow Slough, Mills Co., IAType of habitat? At edge of open water along cattail edge.When? date(s): March 30, 1984 time: 2:15 pm to 2:35 pmWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: None that I know of.

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.

We were looking through the Snow Geese at Willow Slough when we noticed a very small white goose that stayed a little ways from the other geese. It was approx. the same size as a Gadwall that was next to it and was quite a bit smaller than the Snow Geese all around it. The small size was the first thing that we noticed. The bird did not show the characteristic "grin patch" on the bill as on a Snow Goose. The bird had a short neck which made it look like its neck was somewhat fatter than the Snow Geese. The bird's bill seemed more pushed-in looking than the Snow Geese nearby. The bird was generally the same color as a Snow Goose. The body, neck wings (except the black tips - primaries were black) and head were white.

Similar species and how eliminated: Snow Goose is larger with a black "grin" patch on the bill and a longer looking ~~neck~~ neck.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Partly cloudy, seen from approx. 150 yards using 25x60 Spacemaster telescope and 33x90 C90 Celestron telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many Snow Geese and one Ross' Goose on 3/28/82 at Willow Slough.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 7 hours

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