

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? ROSS' GOOSE How many? 1  
 Location? RIVERTON G.M.A. FREMONT CO. IOWA  
 Type of habitat? SWAMP, SURROUNDED BY FARMLAND  
 When? date(s): DEC 19, 1981 <sup>SHENANDOAH</sup> CBC time: 3.30 to 3.35 (APPROX)  
 Who? your name and address: ROSS SLOCK, RR2, MALVERN, IOWA, 51551  
 others with you: BARB WILSON  
 others before or after you: NONE

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 RESEMBLED A SNOW GOOSE (WHITE PHASE) WHEN SEEN IN FLIGHT WITH <sup>ABOUT 300</sup> SNOW GEESE, (VENTRAL VIEW), BUT WAS MUCH SMALLER (ABOUT HALF THE SIZE). ONLY PLUMAGE DIFFERENCE DISCERNABLE WAS THE MUCH REDUCED AMOUNT OF BLACK IN THE PRIMARIES RELATIVE TO THE SNOW GEESE, AMOUNTING ONLY TO A SMUDGE RATHER THAN A WELL-DEFINED BLACK AREA. WING BEATS NOTICEABLY FASTER.

Similar species and how eliminated: SNOW GOOSE ELIMINATED BY ① SIZE COMPARISON ② WING BEAT SPEED ③ POSSIBLY BY REDUCED BLACK IN UNDERWING TIPS - JUVENILE?

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? YES -

If yes, explain: BARB DID NOT <sup>LOCATE</sup> ~~SEE~~ THE BIRD BEFORE THE FLOCK FLEW AWAY.

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

LIGHT GOOD (NO SUN PROBLEMS). BIRDS FLEW OVERHEAD  
A SOME 300 FT UP (ESTIMATED)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: HAVE SEEN ROSS IN FLIGHT BEFORE TO COMPARE WITH SNOWS (ALBEIT "GREATER" SNOWS - IN NORTH CAROLINA (!!!))

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? THIS COPY WRITTEN AT COMPILATION, LATER, ESSENTIALLY THE SAME this form completed? \_\_\_\_\_

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