

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ross' Goose (Chen rossii) How many? 1Location? Willow Slough, Mills Co.Type of habitat? Marsh, flooded grassy portionWhen? date(s): March 28, 1982 time: 10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Noothers before or after you: No

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.

I was scanning a flock of about 8,000 Snow Geese when I noticed a smaller than usual goose resting to the far right of the majority of the geese. Also sitting beside this particular goose was a male Mallard. The Ross' Goose was the same size, or maybe just a little larger, as the Mallard sitting right next to it. At that point I removed the 20x eyepiece from my telescope and put on the 40x eyepiece. I could not see the usual "grin" patch on the bill of this smaller goose. All field marks indicate a Ross' Goose. All other Snow Geese I scanned had the "grin" patch. Voice was not noticed among all the other Geese. The bill was also very stubby looking and shorter as compared to the nearby Snow Geese.

Similar species and how eliminated: Snow Goose is larger and shows a definite "grin" patch on the bill.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing, sun behind me full on bird, (was facing West watching bird from approx. 75 to 80 yards, estimated by eye. Viewed through Bushnell Spacemaster telescope with 20x and 40x eyepiece. also 7x35 mm Bausch + Lomb Roof Prism Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with Ross' Goose, lots of experience with Snow Goose

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 3 hours this form completed? 2 days

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