

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Less' Goose 2. Number: Three
3. Location North of Farragut, Fremont Co., Iowa
4. Date: Feb 26 1982 5. Time Bird seen: 1:00 PM to 1:15 PM
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):
Smaller than the Snow Goose, similar in shape and color to the Snow Goose. The beak was shorter and lacked the dark streak or "grin mark" of the Snow Goose. Did not see the legs or feet since the birds were in water.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: —
9. Habitat - general:
specific: Flooded farmland
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Snow Goose - The Less' Geese were surrounded ^{on 3 sides} by snow, and the size was noticed. The stubby beaks were easily seen.
11. Distance (how measured)? 200 to 300 feet, Estimated 12. Optical equipment: binocs
by my husband, Wayne.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): sun Behind me
and shining on the bird. Bright light + cloudless sky
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Saw one south
of Tucson Ariz. + saw a flock of 400 at Salton Sea, Calif.
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:
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Five hours

Ruth O. Phipps

Address: 310 University

Signature

Date: Feb 26 1982

City, State: Shenandoah Iowa