

DETAILS OF UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Ross' goose

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, RR#6, Iowa City, 52240

DATE: April 5, 1991 12:05-12:14 PM

LOCATION: Kent County Park, Johnson County

DETAILS: I observed a small very white goose with 6 Canada geese at a distance of 30-60 yards with Kowa TSN4 telescope looking toward the north on a sunny day about noon. The bird was very white, and was only about half the size of the Canada geese with which it was associating. The bill was quite short and stubby, and did not have the dark grin patch between the mandibles characteristic of Snow goose. There was a grayish, darker area at the base of the bill which extended the entire vertical width of the bill. I later saw a goose exactly like this bird at Swan Lake, a distance of 5 or so miles from Kent Park (as the goose flies) on April 8th and 9th. On the 8th it was by itself, but on the 9th it was fairly close to a Snow goose of the white phase, and was noticeably smaller than that bird, and the bill differences could be compared.