

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Ross Goose 2. Number 2⁺
3. Location Parker Farm, NE Mills County, near Willow Slough
4. Date: 26 March 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 1/2 hour or so. Near sunset but to with sun on birds

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):

With Snow Geese. White, Black wing tips.

#1. Very Small. More than 1/2 the size of the Snow Geese, but maybe 2/3 the size. Bill darker than adult snow Goose's, short, lacking black grin. Delicate neck. I can pick it out by size and that neck again + again.

(Neck seems delicate as bird feeds)

#2. Another: Bill darker (in some lights I imagine it purple), pinker toward tip. (Very tip light). No black gape. Bill short, head round. Smaller than Snows definitely, but neck not delicate.

There seem to be ~~no~~ at least one more, but it takes a long time to be sure.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior: Feeding rapidly on the ground, moving in + out among the

9. Habitat - general: Snow Geese, at the edge of the flock.

specific: Unplowed corn field.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Snow Goose is larger, with a longer bill (not lavender), and head not rounded. Snow Geese have a black "grin" on bill, with

11. Distance (how measured)? which I could see in the telescope on the larger geese

12. Optical equipment: as I looked at Ross's.

500' measured on aerial photo of farm. 40x telescope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Bird straight east of me close to sunset, but sun on birds.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I saw only one Ross's Goose before. I've been hoping to see one all spring. Actually, I'd given up in this flock when I found these

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?

None when notes written

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? while they were still there

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Date: 24 May 1980 City, State: Hastings Iowa 51540