

Documentation Form

Unusual Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: *Chen rossii* (Ross's Goose)

Location: TERRA LAKE ON PIONEER PARKWAY, JOHNSTON IA

Habitat: PARTIALLY-FROZEN POND IN SUBURBAN AREA SURROUNDED BY GRASSY AREAS. IT WAS IN THE ~~WADST~~ MIDST OF AROUND 1000-2000 CANADIAN GEESSE

Date: 12/01/96

Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Length of observation: 3 hrs

Name and Address: JACOB T. GILLIAM, 1004 MEADOW DRIVE, NORWALK IA 50211
(gilliamjt@phibred.com)

Other Observers: NONE WITH ME BUT OTHERS CAME AND WENT (ANN JOHNSON ? JIM)

Description of bird: SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN OTHER SNOW GEESSE THAT WERE PRESENT; PURE WHITE WITH BLACK WING TIPS; BLUNTED BILL THAT WAS DARK PINK (LEGS WERE ALSO)

Similar species and how eliminated: OTHER SNOWS WERE LARGER AND HAD LARGER BILLS. COULDN'T FIND ANY PICTURES OF GULLS THAT WERE SIMILAR.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification?

ANN INITIALLY DISAGREED AND SAID IT WAS A SNOW GOOSE BUT THEN VERIFIED IT AFTER GETTING A CLOSER LOOK.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions (light, distance, optics): MOSTLY SUNNY IN THE 30'S. IT WAS PROBABLY ~80-100yds AWAY WHEN WITH THE OTHER GEESSE THEN MOVED WITHIN 20yds. VIEWED WITH 7X50 BINOCLS AND

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: PHOTOGRAPHED WITH MINOLTA 7000, 50-200mm M zoom. HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

ANN JOHNSON

How long before field notes made? AT THE TIME OF VIEWING.

This form completed? 12/05/96

PHOTOS ENCLOSED.