

Ross's Goose
19 Mar 1980
Forney Lake, Fremont Co., IA
*T. Kent
IBL 50:45, 52:41

Record Number: 80-02
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports, IBL 50:45
Records Committee, IBL 52:41

VOTE: 6-Yes, 1-abstain

Yes, convincing description, location and date fit expected pattern.

Yes, Fact that could be picked out repeatedly; white head (vs Snows); small bill. Head is bland vs Snows: like Field Sparrow vs other sparrows.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

80-2 . ^{accepted} 9/20/80
6/0/1
2. Number 1

1. Species Ross' Goose
3. Location Forney L. Fremont Co IA
4. Date: 19 Mar 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 3³⁵ to 3⁵⁰ 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):

A white goose about 25% smaller than the many snow geese it was with - both in water and during a short flight with two "blue geese." Bill about 50-60% size of snow goose and bill thinner at base and tip. Upper mandible down-curved compared to straight bill of snows. Head pure white with dark eye. Bill pinkish but more gray than snows. Black wing tips. Did not see leg color. I was able to pick this bird out repeatedly over 15 minutes and once an hour later. Did not definitely see dark at base of upper mandible. Head smaller and more rounded than snows. Most of snows had ^{rusty} head discoloration.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: Swimming, seemed more active than other geese. Made one short flight up and down nearby.

9. Habitat - general: large shallow lake-marsh.

specific: Forney L.

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

Snow goose

11. Distance (how measured)?

100-110 yards by pacing a similar distance

12. Optical equipment:

Bushnell scope with 20x BL eyepiece

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

Clear with sun behind and to my left.

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

Saw ? winged bird at George Riffe Refuge in British Columbia

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:

Simon, D. Identification of Snow and Ross' Geese. Birding 10:289, Dec 1978

I read this article the night before going to south west Iowa to look for this species

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? copied from notes made while observing the bird.

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 21 March 1980 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240