

Emperor Goose

SP 1881

Algona, Kossuth Co., IA

J. G. Smith

Smith 1892, Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-HR

Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Smith, J.G. 1882. The Emperor Goose in Iowa. Forest and Stream 18:107.

Anderson 1907

VOTE (1981): 4-V, 3-VI

V, no description.

VI, almost certainly incorrect.

V, No data, no date. This bird is too unusual to even be considered without strong positive evidence.

VI, Most likely slightly aberrant Blue Goose. Superficial appearance very similar. (How about species identification by taste?)

Smith, J. G. 1882. The Emperor Goose in Iowa. *Forest and Stream* 18:107

THE EMPEROR GOOSE IN IOWA.—ALGONA, IOWA, JAN. 1880.—  
*Editor Forest and Stream:* I noticed several communications in your paper in reference to the snow goose and the blue goose, and although many writers have claimed that they are the same bird, yet I have never considered them so, and have always looked upon them as two distinct species. They differ in shape and color. Their bills and legs are not the same color, and I never considered the blue goose as good eating as the snow goose. We have large flights of these birds in Northwestern Iowa sometime in September or October, and the weather is often quite warm when they come down from the north. They go to the same lakes and feed in the same fields as the white-fronted and Hutchins geese. Last spring we had quite a little flight of the snow and blue geese, and I shot an emperor goose that came to a field where I was shooting, with a flock of snow geese. It is a splendid bird, and the only one I have ever seen in Iowa. I mounted it and have it in my collection.—J. G. SMITH.

5. (176). *Philacte canagaca* (Sev.†.). Emperor Goose.

Anderson 1907  
p 386

The Emperor Goose is a species of the Northwest coast, from Alaska south to California; rare in the United States. J. G. Smith reported the Emperor Goose as occurring at Algona, Iowa (*Forest and Stream*, xviii, 6, 1882, p. 107). Prof. C. C. Nutting reported a specimen taken at Coralville, Johnson county, Iowa, in 1892 (Report of Com. on State Fauna, Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci., 1892, p. 40). This was probably a mistaken identification, as Prof. Nutting says it was identified by him from a verbal description by Mr. Paintin.