

Ross's Goose
11 Mar 1990
Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA
T. Kent
IBL 60:66, 62:21

2

Record Number: 90-03
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 60:66
Records Committee: IBL 62:21

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D: See above comments.

A-D: Conclusive description.

A-D: Description of bill and size of bird diagnostic for Ross' Goose.

A-D: Good description, but a little tough to read.

A-D: Strong and direct Snow Goose comparison available.

A-D: Combination of small size (in comparison to Snow Goose), very small short bill, steep forehead, and lack of grin mark make these birds Ross' Geese. Good description of this species.

A-D: Acceptable description of Ross' Goose.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

90-03

What species? Ross' Grouse How many? 2

Location? Cone M., Louisiana Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Marsh

When? date(s): 11 March 1990 time: 2¹⁵ to 2³⁰ pm

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

One bird about half size of largest snow grouse, 2/3 size of smallest. Other bird slightly larger, but still distinctly smaller than all snow grouse. Both birds were all white except for bill and primaries (most of the snow grouse have smudged white). Short necks, small rounded heads. Bills small and triangular. Culmen slightly curved with steep forehead. Both birds seen in profile with snow showing very small short bills. Bill orange but dark at base. No gape mark (seen on snow).

Similar species; how eliminated: Snow Grouse - see above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Cloudy. 250 yards (guess). 20x scope and Quarter.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen many, but first for Louisiana Co.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 1 hour

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).