

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

1983-1540

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Lat/long \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter \_\_\_\_\_ Sci Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. APR - 6 1983 005  
 Date/time \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name ROSS' GOOSE  
 Scientific Name CHEN ROSSII  
 Sight date 21 Mar 83 time 11:10 duration 11:45  
 Distance from bird 30 yds. → 50 yds.  
 Light conditions FLAT w/ sun breaking thru bk.  
 Optical equip. Bushnell 10x40, 20x spotting scope  
 Photo. equip. FUJICA 35mm SLR w/ 400 mm lens  
 Number of this species seen 20  
 Notes made at time of sighting  Date this report was prepared. 30 March 83  
 Notes made later from memory   
 Photo available  Photo enclosed  (3)

Weather at time of this observation.  
Variable clouds - ~ 48°  
 Prior weather & number of days since change  
Unsettled, periods of RAIN.  
 Locality  
2 mi E. of Merton, UTAH  
Along Hwy 40.

Male  Adult  Age unk.  Basic Plumage  Light Phase   
 Female  Subadult  ♀ or Imm  Breeding  Dark Phase   
 Sex Unk.  Juv/Imm  \_\_\_\_\_ year bird  Eclipse  Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

There were 21 white geese in flock - 20 Ross' and one snow. The Ross' showed the following field marks:

1. Size - About the size of a robust mallard, about 1/5 smaller than the snow that was with them.
2. All feathers immaculately white, save black primaries.
3. Abbreviated, rather stubby bill, the base of which was covered with a bumpy purplish veneer.
4. Straight lips with no black 'grinning' patch.
5. Red-orange bill and feet.
6. Neck leather 'tracts' clearly visible on all 20 individuals.

Note - Although The  
FIELD geese sometimes show a  
yellowish feather area right  
AT Base of Bill -

None.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

The only similar species is Snow Goose - Happily there  
was 1 semi-immature (grayish neck + back) in the flock.  
The Snow goose, in contrast to the Ross', showed the  
following marks:

- 1 - Larger size.
- 2 - Black 'grinning' patch on long, sloping  
bill.
- 3 - No purple ~~warty~~ warty growth on  
upper base of bill.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Birds were feeding & defecating in semi-flooded  
field. They were NOT as spooky as honkers! Their heads would  
come up and they would move slowly away, but it took  
a rather brazen approach to flush them. After flying, they  
circled twice and settled back down much farther away.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

fallow ~~habitat~~ flooded fields in cow pasture.  
Some cows were some distance off and the field was  
dotted with small bunches of greasewood.

Describe birds song or sounds.

They did vocalize when upset,  
but the language limits my expression -  
NOT A QUACK or honk though.

Names of other observers. A/C + phone

Lee Bromley (wife)

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I have seen Ross' geese  
twice previously - I have encountered  
Snow geese every spring for the  
last 5 years.

Print name & mailing address below

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