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Latilong \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter \_\_\_\_\_ Sci Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. 83-007  
 Date/time \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name Ross' Goose  
 Scientific Name Chen rossii  
 Sight date 18-19 April 1983 time Mid morning - Noon duration Sum 1 1/2 hr x 30 min  
 Distance from bird as close as 50 m  
 Light conditions good to excellent  
 Optical equip. Questar 50 X & 80X  
 Photo. equip. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of this species seen 22  
 Notes made at time of sighting  Date this report was prepared.  
 Notes made later from memory   
 Photo available  Photo enclosed  5 May 1983

Weather at time of this observation.  
cloudy 18<sup>th</sup> clear 19<sup>th</sup>  
fairly windy  
 Prior weather & number of days since change  
Storm fronts passing thru regularly

Locality  
Cuttler Reservoir Marshes / near-by  
Pasture lands - near Logan  
Cade Co., UT.

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.  
All 22 individuals were similarly sized, marked, etc.

Small white goose (much smaller than near-by Canada geese) with pink legs and bill and black primaries. The birds were first seen at a good distance (~250-300 m) and through a conventional scope were obviously either snow or Ross'. The initial identification was for Snow Goose but close scrutiny thru the 20X scope left me suspicious. We fetched a Questar and verified (with ease) that all 22 birds were Ross'. The two principle features which completely eliminated Snow were the bill shape and markings, and the shape of the neck and head.

Bill: short, stubby, triangular-shaped with no black "lips" and a distinct lavender-colored base to the upper mandible - at closer range and thru 80X - the "warts" were visible

Head & Neck - Head smallish & rounded and immaculate white (snow usually shows staining around the face). The neck was very straight; i.e. - perpendicular to the plane of the body & with "grooves"

Size - in direct comparison, it is fair to say that these birds were barely larger than mallards

NOTE - It is likely that these birds were present several days to a week before their above discovery. Another observer later mentioned seeing a big flock of "white geese" earlier - in the same locality

ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS ETC.



Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

NONE

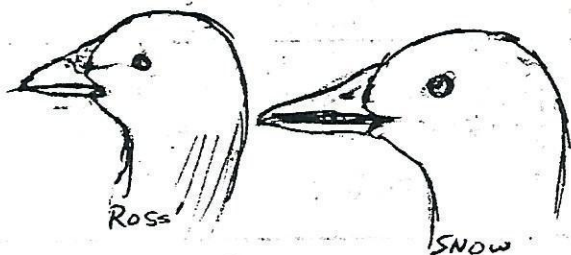
Variations from expected field marks.

NONE - they were "text book" birds.

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

Snow Goose - see preceding discussion (and below)

Domestic (= white Graylag) Geese - black wing-tips on Ross looking on ~~the~~ domestics (usually) - neck is longer and straighter than white mallard types and bill is much smaller than white Graylags



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

Feeding behavior - cropping grass at top of ground level rather than rooting grass up or "digging" is typical of Ross' and not Snow (This is why Snow Geese generally have iron-stained plumage on the face).

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

wet grassy pastures near water

Describe birds song or sounds.

Names of other observers. A/C+phone#

Keith Archibald

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What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I've had considerable experience with Snow Geese - having spent much time on the outer banks, I've often seen flocks of 10,000+ snows. One of my "favorite tricks" there is to locate single Ross' Geese among them - I've been successful about 1/2 dozen times (there's only about 15-20 sightings of Ross' Geese for N.S.)

Print name & mailing address below.

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Signature: