

21 1984

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Ross Goose Scientific Name: *Chen rossii*
 Date: 31 Oct 1984 Time: 1015 Length of time observed: 10 min.
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: unknown
 Location: Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co.
 Lat/long: 15 Elevation: 5600
 Distance to bird: about 200 m. Light conditions: Good, sun to my back
 Optical equipment: 20 X scope
 Weather: Partly cloudy, no wind, 50°
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Length was about 16 inches with a short (for a goose) neck. Plumage was white except for black primaries. Bill was pink, about 1 inch long and lacked the black "lips" of Snow Goose. Leg color not observed.

Feeding and swimming with Snow and Canada Geese so direct size comparison was possible. The subject bird was $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller than the Snow Geese, both in flight and on water. Bill was also much smaller than Snow Goose, about $\frac{1}{2}$ size.

Voice or call notes: not heard

Behavior: Feeding with 3 Snow and 300 Canada Geese
and later swimming in reservoir with some.

Habitat: shallow water at north end of Minersville Res

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Small size, short bill lacking black lips.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Snow Goose is larger, has a proportionally larger bill with black "lips".

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have observed Ross Geese twice before & Snow Geese dozens of times.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd record for Latilong 15.

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording in available):

Observer: Steven P. Hedges Signature: Steven P. Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W., Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

none

Date prepared: 7 Nov 84

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120