

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Ross Goose

Scientific Name: *Chen rossii*

Date: 7 Dec. 1985 Time:

Length of time observed: 10 min.

Number: 1

Age: adult

Sex: ?

Location: Lava Hills Golf Course, St. George, Washington Co.

Latilong: 19

Elevation (if known): 2900 ft.

Distance to bird: ~ 100 ft.

Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: 20 x scope

Weather: Clear, light wind, 55°

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The subject bird was approximately the size of a domestic mallard and similar in appearance to a snow goose. The overall plumage color was white except for the primaries which were black, and dark streaks on the neck which were noticeable at close range. The legs were a dark pink, almost red. The ^{pink} bill was proportionately shorter than that of a snow goose and lacked the black "lips" of a snow goose. The eye was black.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: not heard

Behavior: was first observed swimming on the pond & later feeding on the grass, in company with am. wigeon.

Habitat: Golf course pond & fairway

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

Snow Goose is larger & has a proportionately larger bill with black "lips"

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've observed Ross geese twice previously in Utah, & am very familiar with Snow geese.

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

none

Significance of record in this area or the state: 3rd lat/long record

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting notes made later from memory

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:

V. J. Hedges

numerous others since that date. First observed by Negl Stephens on 5 Dec 1985 & Jerome Gifford on 6 Dec 80

Date prepared: 17 Jan 1986

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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