

30-1987

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Snow Goose (Lesser-Dark phase) Scientific Name: Chen caerulescens
 "Blue Goose" Subspecies caerulescens
 Date: 27 December 1987 Time: 3:15 pm Length of time observed: ~ 20 minutes
 Number: 19 Age: probably a few age classes Sex: most likely ♀ and ♂
 Location: Cache County; along Logan River
 ~ 2 miles west of 10th west bridge which Logan River flows beneath
 Latilong: Elevation (if known): ~ 4200 ft.
 Distance to bird: ~ 100 ft. Light conditions: Very good light - allowing
 exceptionally visibility
 Optical equipment: 10 x 50 Bushnell (Insta-focus) binoculars
 Weather: Clear Skies, Cold Temperatures (~ 8°F) Calm Air
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The most apparent and striking features of these birds was the white head and neck sharply contrasted against a slate gray body (breast, belly, and sides). The primary and secondary feathers were darker (almost black) than the slate colored body. Undertail coverts were white.

While the bill and legs appeared very pinkish-orange.

Back to the white head and neck for another brief note;

The white on the ^{upper} neck did not form a discrete boundary with the slate of the lower neck, but, rather a mixing of the two colors; where fingers of white would extend down into the slate.

The size of these birds were similar to that of ^{the} Canada goose except the birds sighted seemed to have a shorter neck and a stockier body than that of the Canada goose.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: A very bizarre vocalization - similar to a sharp yap of a small dog.

Behavior: most of the 19-birds were sitting in the snow while a few were in a small stream (10m. across) while still a few more were standing on the snowpack. Foraging was occurring on roots + aquatic veg.

Habitat: pasture land with willow trees nearby. There was a small stream flowing through pasture which was choked with aquatic vegetation.
plant species; orchard grass, rushes, cattails, willow and aquatic submersent forms

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

None

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

None - except I have seen on many occasions both the light phase of the "lesser" snow goose as well as the "greater" snow goose.

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

Terres, John K., The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of N.A. Birds (1980)
Farner, John, The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding (1983)
Roe, Leonard, 1973 Game birds of North America

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Certainly not a winter resident or even a casual visitor

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

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

Observer: Charles M. Crisafulli

Signature: Charles M. Crisafulli

Address: 258 North 100 West
Mendon, Utah 84325

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

None

Date prepared: 28 JANUARY 1988

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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