





112-01-1991

**Record of Ross' Goose**  
(*Chen rossii*)  
Lancaster County  
Franklin C. Haas

A Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) was found by Ed and Jo Pederson on 27 February 1991 in Drumore Twp., Lancaster County, near Muddy Run. The bird was with a large flock of Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens*).

I first saw the bird on 1 March 1991 at the Wentworth farm near the intersection of River Road and Route 272. The bird was in a field with a flock of Snow Geese approximately 200 yards away. Viewing through a Questar scope at 80 power enabled me to see the overall small size, the smaller rounded head and the very small bill, all in direct comparison with the larger Snow Geese. The lack of a "grin" and the small triangular patch at the base of the bill were also noted.

In addition to the Snow Geese, the majority of which appeared to be "Greater," there were also several "Blue" Geese and small Snow Geese which appeared to be of the "Lesser" race. Although these "Lesser" Snow Geese were noticeably smaller than the other Snow Geese, they did not have the distinctive shape or bill of the Ross' Goose. The flocks of geese frequently took off, milled around and landed in new locations, making it difficult to relocate the Ross' Goose each time.

While scanning through the flocks, the "Lesser" Snow Geese would "jump out" at you, but could be quickly dismissed by the features noted above. As with so many other look-alike birds, when you spotted the Ross', you knew it!

The bird was seen by many observers off and on until 26 March 1991. No satisfactory photographs have been submitted as of this date for documentation. The bird tended to stay at a greater distance than the two other Ross' Geese found at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area a few days later. If anyone has taken identifiable photographs of this bird, please send them to *Pennsylvania Birds* for submitting to the records committee and for archiving of the record.

2469 Hammertown Rd.  
Narvon, PA 17555

+ notes & comments by others in PB 5:1

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: Ross' Goose

Date of Sighting: 27 February 1991 to 26 March 1991

Observer(s): Frank Haas, et. al.

Date of Submission: 1991

Submitted by: Frank Haas, et. al.

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas		X					
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman		X					
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS		2	5				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*Frank Haas*

Date:

3/7/92