

## RARE SPECIES REPORT

112-01-1992

SPECIES: <u>Ross' Goose</u>		NUMBER SEEN: <u>1</u>
SIGHTING DATE: <u>8 March 1992</u>		SIGHTING TIME: <u>4pm to 4:45pm</u>
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: <u>Lancaster Co. , PA - Middlecreek WMA.</u> DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN:  DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE:	
HABITAT: <u>Man made lake</u>		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: <u>Mostly sunny</u> DISTANCE: <u>100 to 200 yards</u> EQUIP. USED: <u>1545 Space master</u> LENGTH OF SIGHTING: <u>45 min.</u>	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: <u>not heard</u> SIZE: <u>Mallard size</u> PLUMAGE: <u>Adult plumage - all white except for black primaries</u> ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): <u>Very small bill compared to snow goose - blue base not seen, to far leg color not seen</u> BEHAVIOR: <u>It swam around slowly until 4:45. The flock flew to feed on land. Then they flew back to the lake near dark.</u>	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: <u>This is the fourth Ross' Goose I've seen.</u>		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: <u>No black "lips" were visible. Much smaller than the snow geese I was with. Much smaller bill I think is a good field mark.</u>		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? <u>No</u> IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who?		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): <u>This bird was with apx. 100 snow geese. All but 3 were white phase. The flock in the morning contained mostly blue geese. (comment from person at Middlecreek) It took me only 2 min. to find this bird from Willow Point. Most of the snow geese were sleeping.</u>		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: <u>Randy C. Miller</u>		
ADDRESS: <u>607 Woodland Dr</u>		PHONE # <u>717-664-3778</u>
<u>Manheim Pa 17545</u>		
SIGNATURE		DATE: <u>9 March 92</u>

The Ross' Goose was swimming slowing with the group. This was the spot where the second state record was found. Now that there are three records in Lancaster Co. for Ross' Goose, I check all flocks of snow geese. I think the small bill is an outstanding field mark. It is the one I look for first. Then overall size can be checked. The top of the head can easily clear the bottom of the bill of a snow goose.

Jonathan Heller observed this bird on 9 March.  
Devane Hoffman, Dick Colyer, and Ramsey Koury found the Ross' Goose also. } added  
15 April 92

112-01-1992

Ross's Goose  
*Chen rossii*  
Lancaster County  
Jonathan Heller

On Sunday, March 8, 1992, I got a call from Randy Miller who told me that he had found a Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) with a small flock of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) at Middlecreek WMA.

The next day I was at Middlecreek by 1400 hours. Almost immediately I found a flock of Snow Geese that numbered about 600. I was able to view them from the road just beyond stop 1 where they were at a distance of several hundred yards. The sky was mostly cloudy, but occasionally the sun would break through; then the heat waves would make the viewing conditions almost impossible.

After scanning the Snow Geese for 45 minutes, I finally found the Ross's Goose. Some field marks that made it stand out were the small stubby bill, the more rounded head, the shorter neck, and the overall smaller size. I had the bird in view for only ten seconds when a bush got in the way. Fortunately, I quickly relocated the bird and was able to study it for several minutes.

This was the fourth Pennsylvania record and also the fourth record for Lancaster County.

112-01-1992

Fourth Pennsylvania and Fourth Lancaster  
County Record of Ross' Goose.  
Jonathan Heller

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This was the fourth Pennsylvania record and also the fourth record for Lancaster County.

*Mt. Joy, PA 17552*

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **ROSS' Goose**Date of Sighting: **7 March 1992 to 8 March 1992**Observer(s): **Jonathan Heller, Randy Miller**Date of Submission: **1992**Submitted by: **Jonathan Heller, Randy Miller**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater		X					
B. Haas		X					
F. Haas		X					
R. Ickes		X					
G. McWilliams		X					
S. Santner		X					
J. Skinner		X					
TOTALS		7					
DECISION		X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bm Haas

Date:

2-27-93