

112-01-1996

### Rare Bird Report

**Common Name:** Ross's Goose

**Number Seen:** 1

**Location:** Lakes Edge Road, Limerick, Pa. Montgomery County.

**Date(s) Seen:** 1st sighting-March 3, 1996; 2nd-March 4, 1996.

**Times:** 1st sighting-11:30AM; 2nd-5:00PM.

**Observer:** Kevin J. Hakun of 107 Apache Ln., Royersford, Pa 19468.

**Other Observers:** Michael Coiter, Neil Thorpe.

**Weather:** March 3rd- Cold, cloudy, very windy, NW wind 35+, 47degrees.

**Optics:** Leica 10x50.

**Distance to Bird:** 60 to 80 yards.

**Habitat:** Two acre pond at the bottom of a hill(windbreak).

**Behavior:** Floating with flock of 75 Canada Geese and 1 Snow Goose.

**Description:** Small all white bird, slightly larger than a Mallard in size. Short stubby bill of fleshy color, black wing tips that were very noticeable in flight. Birds got quite frightened and took flight when tried to approach for a closer view.

**Voice:** None heard.

**Photographs:** None.

**References:** Audubon's Eastern Handbook.

**Description Form:** Copied from *Birding* Volume XXIV: Number 3, June 1992, p.150.

**Positive of Identification:** Yes!

Signature Kevin J. Hakun Date 3/14/96

Home Phone Number-(610)495-0997

Work Phone Number-(610)948-5170

112-01-1996

Neal G. Thorpe  
109 Grace Street  
Mont Clare, Pennsylvania 19453

March 9, 1996

To whom it may concern:

On March 4 I observed what I identified as a Ross's goose in the company of a single snow goose in a small pond off Township Line Road and 9th Avenue, Royersford, Montgomery County.

Other waterfowl in the pond were perhaps 50 Canada geese and a mute swan. The two white geese were together close to the south bank of the pond. Fortunately, the entrance to the pond area was from the south, so that my companion, Kevin Hakun, and I were able to drive within 200 feet of the geese, and in the course of our observations walk another 50 feet closer.

It was obvious naked eye and with binoculars that one goose was substantially smaller than the other, with a smaller bill, and that both had black wingtips. We then spent ten or fifteen minutes observing the birds alternately through binoculars and a spotting scope. My optics were Leica Elite 8x40 binoculars and a Kowa TSN 2 scope with a 25x eyepiece. We were looking north in good mid-afternoon light, with the sun behind us.

The birds began slowly swimming away from us, but often turned their heads to look back, putting their bills and headshapes in profile. Through the scope a black arcing line could be clearly seen on the bill of the bigger bird. I have never seen the so-called "grinning patch" of the snow goose so well. The smaller bird had a much stubbier bill, with no such arc. I observed a short, straight black line dividing it. I also saw a more rounded head, with a forehead that rose at almost right angles to the bill.

It seemed to me that the two birds, which remained within a yard of each other, presented a perfect picture of the differences between the snow and Ross's goose.

*Neal Thorpe*

112-01-1996

Mike Coulter  
6b Dickson Dr.  
Malvern, Pa 19355

Frank Haas  
PORC  
2469 Hammertown Rd  
Narvon, PA 17555

Dear Frank,

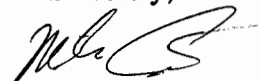
On Sunday March 3, 1996 in the Mid-afternoon, I along with Kevin Hakun observed a Ross' Goose in the company of one Snow Goose, approx. 70 Canada Geese, and A Mute Swan in a small pond on Lake's Edge Road near Royersford, Montgomery County. The day was partly cloudy with temperatures in the low 40's.

While driving west on Lynnefield-Trappe Road, we spotted a Mute Swan in the above pond and decided to take a closer look. While approaching the pond in the car, two white geese were noted in the foreground of a flock of Canada Geese. The two birds were about a yard apart and the size difference between them was immediately evident. The car was parked approx. 50 yds. away from the pond. Using Minolta 20x50 binoculars the bill of the smaller goose appeared pinkish with a grey-black base. Along with the color, the bill appeared notably "stubbier". The also appeared disproportionately shorter than the Snow Goose. The two geese stayed together the entire time (approx. 20 min.), providing an almost textbook comparison between the two species.

After exiting the car, the birds became noticeably alarmed and started for the rear of the pond. when we approached a distance of approx. 40 yds, the birds took flight along with about half of the canada Geese. Even in flight, the two remained together.

For any further questions or information, feel free to write at the above address or call at 610-917-3161.

Sincerely,



# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Ross' Goose** (*Chen rossii*)

Date of Sighting: **3 March 1996 to 4 March 1996**

Location: **LIMERICK**

County: **MONTGOMERY**

Observer(s): **Kevin Hakun**

**Neal Thorpe; Mike Coulter**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Mike Coulter**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas		X						
N. Pulcinella		X						
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes		X						
G. McWilliams		X						
P. Schwalbe		X						
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS		5	2					
DECISION		X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. Haas*

Date:

*2-22-97*