

112-02-1996

Ross' Goose, *Chen rossii*

14 November, 1996

Observer Chuck Tague

Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area, Crawford County, PA.

There was a small, dumpy, all white goose with a flock of Canada Geese near Miller's Ponds, between the largest pond and Route 285. I identified it as an immature Ross' Goose. I observed the bird with a spotting scope from the Game Commission parking lot/observation area just before the Miller's Pond turnoff, about 150 yards away from the bird. Because of the bird's jizz (general shape and impression) and size (the entire goose was less than half the length of the body of a nearby Canada Geese) I eliminated Snow Goose.

Its plumage was very white except for its black primary extensions and a dusky smudge on its nape and cap. The legs were short and grayish but not as dark as the Canada Geese. The almost conical beak was less than the width of the bird's head. The color was dark and pinkish. The base of the upper mandible touched the head just below the dark eye. The lower mandible was not noticeable and it did not have a "grin." Its very thick neck, together with its head and beak was less than half the length of the rest of its body. It was very ungooselike, resembling a gull as it stretched to pull grass from scrapes in the snow. Head on it reminded me of a Ptarmigan.

I observed the Ross' Goose from 11:45 to 12:20 when it either flew without me seeing it or it disappeared into one of the folds in the field.

Ross' Goose <*Chen rossii*>- Dunn and Blum -1988 NSG Field Guide

Ross's Goose <*Anser rossii*> Madge and Burn -1988 Waterfowl

In addition to the Ross' Goose and the usual Canada Geese (est 8,000, Mallards and Hooded Mergansers (500)

2 Common Loon

5 Pied-billed Grebe

15 Double-crested Cormorants

10 Green-winged Teal

2 Northern Shoveler

8 Gadwall

25 Am. Wigeon

5 Ring-necked Ducks

Common Goldeneye

Bufflehead

20 Common Mergansers

1 Bald Eagle, adult

1 Northern Harrier male

1 immature Northern Goshawk, in the tree next to Miller's Pond - very tame.

1 Rough-legged Hawk

1 American Kestrel

1 Greater Yellowlegs

4 Long-billed Dowitchers - walking on the road -quite comical

1 Eastern Meadowlark

22 Snow Buntings

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Date of Sighting: 14 November 1996 to 14 November 1996

Location: PYMATUNING AREA

County: CRAWFORD

Observer(s): Chuck Tague

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Chuck Tague

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			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C Haas

Date:

8-16-97