









112-01-1998

BUCKS

Unusual Bird Report

Person submitting data Ken KitsonDate 1/3/99Address 704 Headquarters Road, Otterville PA 18942 Phone 610-847-2968Observers 1st seen by Chuck Crankleton 12/10Date(s) Seen 12/10/98 - into 1999

+ Ken Kitson, Ron French, August Minichella & many others

How long observed 1/2 hourWhere Observed at Sakers Point - Peace Valley - up on landConditions of observation First seen by K. Kitson on 12/11 at 13 PM,

(Time of day, weather, distance

the sun was beginning to get low.

to bird, optics, etc.)

The bird was within 50 feet

Behavior & Habitat

(what was the bird doing,

It was feeding on land with a
number of Canada Geese

what habitat was it in.)

Species

Ross' Goose

Number seen

1 (then 2 several days later)

Description

(Describe size, color & pattern

above & below, head, bill, wings,

tail, sex, age, etc. as needed -

use drawings on reverse side

if helpful.)

The Ross' Goose was about 1/2 the size of an
Canada Goose and a little larger than
a Ring-billed Gull.It was white in head, body and wings - with
black tips on the wings. There was a hint of
gray on the back of the head and back.The neck and bill were proportionately
shorter than the Canada Goose, and the
head was more rounded.The upper mandible was rose to pinkish to black
at the base, and the lower mandible was all
rose to pinkish. The legs were gray.
(see photos attached)

Similar Species

(what similar species might it be

and how can they be eliminated

from consideration.)

The Ross' Goose is similar to the Snow
Goose but was about 1/3 smaller and the
neck and bill were proportionately shorter.I saw the Ross' Goose fly by between two Snow Geese
on 12/26 and again on 12/27 (for the Central Bucks CBC).

ADDITIONAL Sighting

About 12/20, C Crankleton saw the Ross' Goose with the
Canada Goose, he moved further up the lake and
saw another Ross' Goose with several Snow Geese. He
went back and checked the first Ross' Goose just to be
certain that there were indeed two Ross' Geese.This is the 1st reported sighting for the Ross' Goose in Bucks County.Ken Kitson

Bucks

Ross's Goose --- Peace Valley Park
12/12/98 1 Sub-adult -see field notes
Saw as close as 30 feet with good light. About two-thirds
the size of Canadas it was with. Smaller more rounded head
and smaller bill than Snow Geese. As I was standing on an
overlook looking down at the bird, I could see the dark
juvenile feathers clearly on the back of the neck, just a
trace on the crown, and also just a trace on the scapulars.
There was a dark line but not the large grin patch of the
Snow geese. The bill was dark gray but pink toward the tip.
The legs were also dark gray. I also saw the bird in flight
and saw its small size in comparison to the Canadas and a
few Snow Geese near by. The flap was faster.
Viewed for hours with 7x40B Zeiss binoculars and Swift
15X to 60X scope.
Also, the Snow Geese near by had the rust color on their
heads but the Ross' did not.

112 -01- 1998

A. Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 10 December 1998 to 10 December 1998

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County: BUCKS


Observer(s): Ken Kitson, August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Ken Kitson, August Mirabella

Written Description YES Photo YES Specimen NO Recording NO

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | | | | Abstain |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V | |
| D. Couchman | X | | | | | | | |
| T. Floyd | | | | | | | | X |
| P. Hess | X | | | | | | | |
| R. Ickes | X | | | | | | | |
| J. McWilliams | X | | | | | | | |
| B. Reid | X | | | | | | | |
| P. Rodewald | X | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 6 | | | | | | | 1 |
| DECISION | X | | | | | | | |

Comments: *6/0/1*Signature (Secretary): Date: *8/24/00*