

## GENERAL NOTES

**Ross' Goose in North Carolina: first Atlantic seaboard occurrence.**—On 2 March 1968, while conducting an avian biology class field trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, I found an adult Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) feeding alongside the main road through Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County. A total of 14 people besides myself (none previously familiar with the species in life) saw the bird, including one other observer on 10 March and two on 27 and 28 December 1967. On 2 March we watched it for about an hour, in bright sunlight, through binoculars and a 60× zoom telescope, and took a number of photographs (Figure 1). As the bird was on a National Wildlife Refuge, collecting was not possible, but specific identification is certain from the photographs.

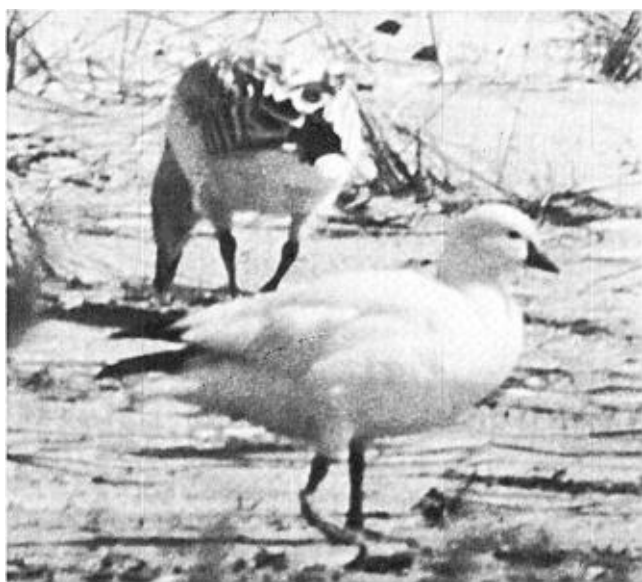


Figure 1. Ross' and immature white morph Blue Geese photographed at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County, North Carolina, 2 March 1968, by Robert L. Anderson.

This Ross' Goose was about two-thirds the size of the adjacent Blue Geese, the difference in size indicating that the latter were probably *Chen caerulescens atlantica*, the larger, monomorphic-white form that is the dominant wintering race in this area (nomenclature follows Cooch, Auk, 78: 72, 1961). The bird compared to the adult white Blue Geese as follows: its plumage lacked iron staining or any other forehead coloration but was otherwise identical; its feet and legs were a brighter, deeper, pinkish-red, its tarsi much shorter; its bill was shorter and stubbier and lacked the "grinning patch" of lamellae between tomia; in profile it showed a bumpy, irregular culmen, but the base did not seem to have the "wartlike protuberances" supposedly characteristic of *rossii*; at its base the bill changed in color from bright pink to dirty

gray; its culmen profile rose abruptly, more like a Redhead (*Aythya americana*) than a Canvasback (*A. valisineria*); the overall head shape was rounded and the shorter-proportioned, thicker neck gave it a bull-headed appearance; the dark reddish-brown eye was relatively closer to the upper mandible and seemed proportionally larger. The apparent lack of the warty protuberances was puzzling, but according to Delacour (Waterfowl of the World, vol. 1, London, Country Life Ltd., 1954, p. 134) and C. D. MacInnes (pers. comm.) immatures and females usually lack them completely, and only in old males do they reach the extent often thought characteristic of all members of the species.

This is the first recorded occurrence of *rossii* on or near the Atlantic seaboard, the nearest records being no closer than Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois despite an increase in reports from the central plains area in the 1960s (see MacInnes and Cooch, Auk, 80: 77, 1963). This record agrees with MacInnes and Cooch's observation (op. cit. and in litt.) that a small population of *rossii* breeds in the eastern Canadian Arctic, in or near colonies of *Chen c. caerulescens*: this individual probably arrived with a flock of *c. caerulescens*. Reports of the blue morph of the latter form have increased in recent years along the Atlantic coast, probably just reflecting the more readily identifiable blue morph's recent breeding ground increase (see Cooch, op. cit.), and belying the supposed rarity of *c. caerulescens* on the Atlantic coast. On 10 March 1968 at least eight "pure" and a number of "mixed" blue morphs were seen; all by definition were *c. caerulescens*. It is in such groups that *rossii* should be looked for in the future.

The possibility exists that the North Carolina *rossii* was an escape. While this is a perennial problem with extralimital waterfowl, because *rossii* has a total breeding population of only 20–25,000 birds (Cottam et al., Auk, 79: 476, 1962) and is rarely seen in captivity, any extralimital records are probably bona fide.—P. A. BUCKLEY, Department of Biology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, Long Island, New York 11550.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler breeds in Colorado.**—On 8 June 1968 I found two Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) at Bear Creek Canon picnic grounds at an altitude of 6,500 feet in the foothills of Pikes Peak about 3 miles from the center of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, in east-central Colorado. The birds were in thickets of scrub oak (*Quercus gambelii* Nutt.) and mountain maple (*Acer glabrum* Torr.) with briery undergrowth beside a stream. On 15 July the birds were seen feeding two newly fledged young; next day Richard G. Beidleman of Colorado College obtained family photographs. This is apparently the first breeding record for the Chestnut-sided Warbler west of the Missouri River (vicinity of Omaha, Nebraska—500 miles from Colorado Springs) (see Check-list of North American birds, fifth Ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957, pp. 499–500). In "Birds of Colorado" (Denver Mus. Nat. Hist., 2: 692, 1965) and its abridgement with addenda (Pictorial checklist of Colorado Birds, Denver Mus. Nat. Hist., 1967, p. 122) Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach list this warbler as an "uncommon spring migrant in eastern counties," first recorded in the state in 1933 and seen subsequently, and with increasing frequency, in the Denver-Boulder region (19 times), farther out on the Plains (3 times), and in El Paso County (twice). With the exception of a bird reported as "likely an immature" on 25 August 1964 and an immature bird banded on 27 September 1966, all were adults observed in spring (29 April to 1 June). Beidleman (pers. comm.) adds the following records: two adults seen near Wray, in extreme north-eastern Colorado, c. May 1952, and an adult seen 3 miles west of Drake, along the