

rec'd 17 Mar 02

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

Species: Tundra Swan

(Common Name)

Cygnus Columbianus

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of observation: 3-12-02Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: Probable ♂ + ♀ Plumage: adultExact location: Horseshoe Lake - Lathrop State ParkCounty: HuerfanoNearest town: WalsenburgElevation: ca 6400'Length of observation: 10 minutes Times(s) of observation: 720-730 AMOther observers who saw the bird(s) with you: NoneOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): Dave Johnson Found birds 3-10-02Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's position): Birds east of observer - clouds obscured sunOptical equipment used: 15-60 power zoom lens swift scopeDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 75 yardsWas bird photographed?: No If so, have you submitted photographs? _____

Who took the photographs? _____

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Foothills state park lake lined variably with cattails and sparse to dense riparian habitat.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

Birds swam + fed near reedy shoreline dipping long necks deep into water. They occasionally bobbed their heads. Necks were held on fairly even plane from chest.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

These two birds were much larger than largest Canada Geese. Both birds Feathering were solid white except for rusty color on crown, nape, + upper neck. Bills, legs, + eyes were black. one Swan had concave culmen plus prominent bright yellow spot between eye & bill. other bird lacked yellow spot & was slightly larger. It also had straighter culmen. Bridge of bill was a very broad shaped L - not V. Eye was distinct from bill though less so than smaller Swan. Apex of back was centered on back of both birds.

Describe bird's call or song:

None heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Trumpeter Swans are much larger, lack bright yellow spot near eye, and have deep V on bridge of bill on adult birds. One bird I saw could be confused with Trumpeter. But U shape bridge of bill + only slightly larger size I felt are more characteristic of Tundra Swan.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I've seen many Tundra Swans and Trumpeter Swans in 5 different states including 4-5 Times in Colorado

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

M. Jordan "Distinguishing... Swans" Birding (8-88) p223 FF
S. Bailey "Bill characters... Swans" Birding (7-91) p88 FF
Patten + Heindel "... Swans" Birding (10-94) p88 FFThis report was made from notes made during ✓ or after _____ observation, or later from memory _____.Date of written report: 3-14-02Reporting observer: David Silverman Signature: David SilvermanObserver's address: P.O. Box 362 Rye CO 81069Send report to: Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO. 80601