

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2003-146

RESULTS: (A) 7-0

Species: (Common Name) Tundra Swan

(Scientific Name) *Cygnus columbianus*

Date(s) of occurrence: November 26, 2003

Number of birds seen: Six (6)

Sex: Unknown

Plumage: 5 Ad; 1 Imm.

Exact location: Southwest corner of Pastorius Res.

County: LaPlata

Nearest town: Durango

Elevation: About 7000 ft

Length of observation: About ½ hour

Time(s) of observation: mid-afternoon

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Peter Derven, who found these birds; Susan Allerton

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Partial cloudy, sun was behind me and to my left.

Optical equipment used: Elite 10x42; Kowa 823 20x60 eyepiece.

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): About 100 yds

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos? N/A

Who took the photograph(s)? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Medium-sized, fairly shallow reservoir that was partly iced over.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Birds were resting on the ice at edge of open water.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. Large all white birds with long necks. All of the adults (5) had some degree of a yellow lore spot. Three had very prominent yellow lores and two had small yellow lores that were visible only through the telescope. The immature was a dirty white or light gray with a mostly pinkish bill that was not black at the base. Since I believe that the bill features mentioned are diagnostic for Tundra, I won't list other features, which also supported this ID. Please let me know if more details are needed.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Trumpeter Swans were eliminated by yellow lores on adults and lack of black base on immature's bill. Other features not mentioned above all supported Tundra ID.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen both Tundra and Trumpeter Swans many times over the years. I have recently seen Trumpeter Swans at Jackson Hole, Wyoming in January 2004.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification: None

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: February 11, 2004 at 11:30 AM.

Reporting observer: James D. Beatty

Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail

City: Durango

State: CO

Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601