

2004-16
7-0 (A)


Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Tundra Swan		(Scientific Name) Cygnus columbianus
Date(s) of occurrence: 3/11/04 & 3/14/04		
Number of birds seen: Two	Sex:	Plumage: Juvenile
Exact location: Strauss Cabin Archery Range Lake		
County: Larimer	Nearest town: Ft. Collins	Elevation: ~5016 ft.
Length of observation: On the 11th approx. 30 minutes. On the 14th for an hour or so.		Time(s) of observation: ~10:00 am on the 11th and ~8:00 am on the 14th
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Joe Mammoser on the 11th & Bill Schmoker on the 14th		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): MOB		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Clear, calm, sunny both days.		
Optical equipment used: Swarovski EL 8 X 42 and Leica Televid 77 APO Scope with 20-60X zoom.		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): Difficult to estimate.		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes.		If so, are you submitting photos? Yes. Pics\TUSW BS.jpg, Pics\TUSW RH.jpg, Pics\TUSW1 BS.jpg, Pics\TUSW2 BS.jpg, Pics\TUSW2 RH.jpg, Pics\TUSW3 BS.jpg, Pics\TUSW3 RH.jpg, Pics\TUSW4 RH.jpg
Who took the photograph(s)? Digiscoped by Rachel Hopper on the 11th and Bill Schmoker on the 14th (used with permission.)		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Old gravel pit lake.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The birds were actively feeding near the edge of the lake on the 11th. On the 14th they were actively feeding and resting on a small island near the shore of the lake.		
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. <i>Nick Komar initially spotted these birds while driving on I-25 and identified them as swan species. He called me and asked if I could go take a closer look. I went immediately and subsequently identified them as Tundra Swans. I then called Joe Mammoser who met me there about 15 minutes later. Please see photos.</i>		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Please see photos.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen several Tundra Swans before.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): National Geo.		
This report was made from (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X photos made during observation		
Date and time of written report: 04/10/2004		
Reporting observer: Rachel Hopper		Signature: Rachel Hopper
Reporting observer's address: 1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.		
City: Ft. Collins	State: CO	Zip: 80524



7-0 (A) 2004-16 rec'd 4/12/04

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CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Tundra Swan		(Scientific Name) <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
Date(s) of occurrence: 14 March 2004		
Number of birds seen: 2	Sex: ?	Plumage: 1 st Cycle
Exact location: Strauss Cabin Lake		
County: Larimer	Nearest town: Fort Collins	Elevation: ~5000 ft.
Length of observation: About 45 minutes		Time(s) of observation: about 8:00 – 8:45 am
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Rachel Hopper		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Many Observers		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position): Pretty good light.		
Optical equipment used: Nikon D100 + 80-400 VR, Kowa TSN 824 + 32X WA + Nikon Coolpix 4500		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): Perhaps 40 meters at closest		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? yes		If so, are you submitting photos? yes
Who took the photograph(s)? Bill Schmoker		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Mid-sized suburban lake. Swans kept to shallow edges and a low, bare island.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The birds were mainly feeding, tipping their heads down in shallow water. They spent a little time swimming around and a brief time resting on a low, bare island with a Canada Goose.		
DESCRIPTION – Very large mostly white dabbling waterfowl, very long necked- clearly swans. Body plumage on both birds mainly white. Neck and head plumage also mainly white, but tinged with gray (more so on yellow-lored bird.) Legs thick and black. Bill mostly black, with small amount of pink (more on yellow-lored bird.) Lores on one bird yellow, the other white. Lores very narrow, tapering to be much thinner than eye. Bill/cheek junction profile typical of TUSW: forms a distinct angle just above gape. Border on top of bill to forehead still pointy- hasn't developed into gentle curve expected on adult TUSW yet.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard.		
SIMILAR SPECIES – Mute Swan larger, has all pale bill. Trumpeter swan larger (these birds were bigger than a Canada Goose but not massively bigger like Mute or Trumpeter Swans.) Pale lores also separate Tundra Swans from Mute or Trumpeter Swans. Bewick's Swan should have more extensive pale lores, as should Whooper Swan.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've seen many Mute, Trumpeter, and Tundra Swans.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley Guide to Birds.		
This report was made from: Notes and photos taken of the birds.		
Date and time of written report: 8 April 8, 20042004		
Reporting observer: William P Schmoker		Signature: 
Reporting observer's address: 3381 Larkspur Dr. Longmont, CO 80503 email: bill@schmoker.org		

Photos 14 March 2004 Strauss Cabin Lake Larimer County, Colorado

