

8-84-12

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Trumpeter Swan ; Olor buccinator
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 12-13, 14, 15-83 Time Bird Seen: ^{4:30 PM ON 13th} 8:00 AM - 14th to 15-30 min

Locality: N end of brush Hollow Res.

Penrose, Fremont, Co.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 30x & 45x spotting scope, 10x binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 35mm SLR & 400mm Tele-Photo

Number of birds seen: -6- Sex: _____ Plumage: 1 im., 5 adult

Light conditions: poor on 13th, excellent on 14th, fair on 15th

Distance from bird, and how measured: as close as 50M & 150-200m


Describe the bird's overall behavior: observed feeding near shore on 14th, dipping heads & tipping humps. also seen on 3 occasions swimming in open water

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Shallows of lake & in open water

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Rosie Watts, Bill Maynard, Richard Bunn

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

6 very large, 5 pure white, 1 quite gray, Swans, adults all had black from bill tip to eye (including eye) distinct red-orange border ^{near} base of upper mandible seen on two birds  im. had dark tip & base of bill, being red in the middle. Birds ^{appear} very large when seen in raft of ducks. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Upon being disturbed while feeding (by this observer) one of the swans appeared to give a "honking" call as they fled to open water, call was lower than Canada geese's. List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Tundra Swan; Immature is less gray(?) & bill is said to lack darkness, esp. at base. Most adults are described as having yellow spot or interruption in black. After listening to Peterson's tapes the noise heard was ~~more~~ similar to that of Prior experience with this and similar species: have only seen columbianus x2 buccinator than columbianus

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory ☒.

Name (print) : SIM WATTS
Mailing address: P.O. Box 505 Penrose, Co. 81240

Signature: Jan Elzeth

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Trumpeter Swans : Cygnus buccinator
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

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Dates (s): 12/13/83 & 12/19/83 Time Bird Seen: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Locality: Brush Hollow Reservoir

Penrose, Fremont Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell scope 15x-45x zoom

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Mirotta 20x 300 mm lens

Number of birds seen: 6 Sex: ? Plumage: 5 ad. 1 IM

Light conditions: good, fair spec - viewed from 4 angles & 3 sides of reservoir

Distance from bird, and how measured: closest ~ 100 yds, about football field length

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

- 1) feeding in shallow water
- 2) resting on ice - flew when dogs were viewed nearby

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

on water, feed in shallow water by willows
2nd time resting on ice

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Jim + Rosie Watts P.O. Box 505 Penrose CO

Richard Bunn 2525 Main CS. CO,

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

IM - Dull grey overall - bill pink with dark spot in center



2 ad. with rusty top to head & back of neck

2 ad. - with very flat topped heads

None of 6 birds had yellow lines on front of light coloration by line

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

When birds became aware of our presence they stood up on ice and began a hollow resonant sound but not audible in flight (When I got home & played tape and sounds were not exactly like either Tundra or Trumpeter Swan but close to)

List similar species and how you eliminated them: gilted (low) to Trumpeter

Tundra Swan - has more rounded head

usually has yellow line

has straight neck profile

line of bill is straight between eyes

call was not high pitched like Tundra

culmen not obviously concave as in Tundra

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Tundra Swan - observed on Chesapeake Bay, Va., Ottawa River, Que., Chesapeake Bay, Md. & this year 11/28/83 (15) at Chatfield Res. also the one that wintered at Berkeley Res. 1981 (photo)

Trumpeter Swan - photographed at Yellowstone N.P. - observed from air on nests Denali N.P. & Presque Isle 1982 (Challenger)

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after observation; from memory ☐.

Name (print): William R Maynard

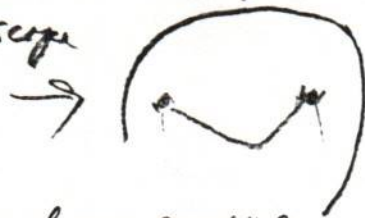
Mailing address: 926 Cheyenne Blvd Colo. Spgs. CO 80906

Signature: William R Maynard

Return Form To:

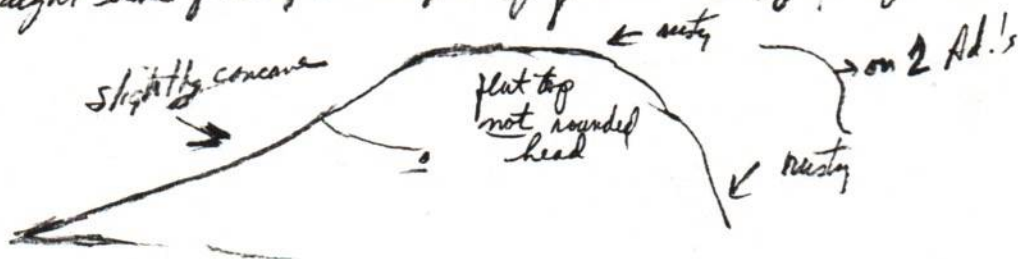
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2 ad - had bills which formed a V where bill sloped between eyes
 visible only when they turned towards scope



When I first observed the birds they were unaware of my presence
 They were feeding in shallow water and all had the kinked neck profile

Although the bills were not perfectly straight the overall effect in profile
 was of a straight line from flat shaped top of head along top of culmen



Black Skin did not seem to end at a point at the eye although in my photographs
 of both species are similar with this respect.

Overall effect of bill w/ respect to head was of being longer
 than in pictures; head had a longish streamlined appearance



Although photograph was taken while birds became aware of our
 presence, the slide shows the swan fastest to the right with
 neck in a posture comparable to the drawing of Whopper swan on
 page 65. of Robinson's Rare Birds of the West Coast.

If the information in Palmer, Robertson, & the new Geographic guide is accurate
 these birds are/were Trumpeter Swans

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Species: Trumpeter Swan ; Not buccinator
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

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Dates (s): 12/14/83 Time Bird Seen: 8¹⁵A to 8⁴⁵ALocality: north end of Brush Hollow Reservoir
Fremont, Colorado (Fremont County)
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 10X20 binoculars; 30X-45X spotting scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 6 Sex: unknown Plumage: 5 adult, 1 imm.Light conditions: excellent - early am sun to our backs as we facedDistance from bird, and how measured: 50 meters → 200 meters -
estimated from shoreline

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Feeding in shallow water near shore; dipping
heads into water & tilting rumps upward. ThenDescribe the habitat in which you observed the bird: stream out to open H₂O
Shallow water near shore; in among dead standing
cottonwoods. Also open H₂O - (froze over approx 3 days later)

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Bill Maynard, Jim Smith, Ricky Bunn

8-84-12

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ADULTS: 5 very large, all white swans. Bills black up to & including the eyes. No yellow noted on any of the birds even at close range with scope; but reddish-orange "grin line" at base of upper mandible noted on 2 of the birds. IMMATURE: Appeared slightly "thinner" than adults. Gray plumage with whitish-gray in neck. Bill ~~very black~~ at base & tip - orange in between. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery - i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Heard low "honking" call x 1 - sounded very similar to trumpet swan call on Peterson tapes. Sounded lower than Canada goose which flew by approx 5 min later. List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Tundra swan - lack of yellow in bill, & presence of "grin line". Immature's bill appeared more heavily black than any picture we could find. Birds appeared very large, but my experience with swans is limited so I don't know if size is a fair indicator in this instance. Prior experience with this and similar species:

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory _____.

Name (print) : RASIC WATTS

Mailing address: PO BOX 505 PENROSE COLO 81240

Signature: RASIC WATTS

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