

TRUMPETER SWAN (1-BASIC I) DYE RESERVOIR 8-84-26
OTERO COUNTY. LATILONG 20.

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OVERALL PLUMAGE PATTERN

JUVENAL - ENTIRE FEATHERING A VARIANT OF BUFFY-BROWNISH. PREBASIC I MOLT DURING FALL OR INTO WINTER.

BASIC I - GRAY ABOVE WHITE BELOW
BASIC II - DEFINITIVE (III) - ENTIRELY WHITE. (PALMER)

JUVENAL - BROWNISH-GRAY. VARIABLE MOLT COMPLETED LATE FALL OR GRADUALLY THROUGH WINTER INTO SPRING.
BASIC I GRAYISH OR GRAY-BROWN ABOVE
BASIC II - WHITE. (PALMER)

GRAY ABOVE AND WHITE BELOW. ELIMINATING JUVENAL AND BASIC II-III AND ALTERNATE PLUMAGES OF BOTH TUNDRA AND TRUMPETER SWANS.

THE GRAY AND WHITE PLUMAGE IS CHARACTERISTIC OF TUNDRA OR TRUMPETER BASIC I. NEITHER SPECIES CAN BE ELIMINATED ON BASIS OF PLUMAGE PATTERN OR COLOR.

NO FERROUS STAINS ON HEAD OR NECK.

BILL COLOR AND PATTERN

BASIC I - PINK FLECHES ON MIDSECTION OF BLACK MANDIBLE (PALMER)

BILL BLACK, WITH MIDDLE PART OF CULMEN LIGHT FLESH WITH A LARGE PURPLE PATCH ON BOTH SIDES (OBERHOLSER)

BASIC I GRAYISH-MAGENTA TO VIOLET-SCARLET AT BASE GRADING TO BLACK AT TIP. (PALMER)

BLACK EXCEPT FOR A SMALL MIDSECTION PATCH OF GRAY WITH A VERY SMALL SPOT OF PINK IN CENTER OF GRAY PATCH. THE PINK SPOT OBSCURE AND COULD BE SEEN ONLY WHEN THE BIRD HELD ITS HEAD IN A FAVORABLE POSITION.

BILL AND HEAD SHAPE

BILL STRAIGHT W/ EVIDENT SLOPING FOREHEAD - BILL PROFILE. (PALMER, ROBERSON)

ROUND HEAD - BILL NOT INVARIABLY CONCAVE AND SHALLOWER THAN TRUMPETER (PALMER, ROBERSON)

STRAIGHT OR NEARLY STRAIGHT CULMEN - APPEARED DEEP AT BASE. STRAIGHT BILL W/ DEEP BASE ACCENTUATED A STRAIGHT BILL-FOREHEAD PROFILE. APPEARED 'HEAVY-BILLED' WITH SOMEWHAT A CANVASSBACK-LIKE SLOPING FOREHEAD-BILL PROFILE.

LATERAL PROFILE OF BILL AT BASE APPEARED SLIGHTLY CONVER

<u>TRUMPETER</u>	<u>TUNDRA</u>	<u>BIRD SEEN AT DYE RESERVOIR</u>
<u>LEG AND FEET COLOR</u> BASIC I - A SHADE FROM GRAY TO BLACK BUT SOMETIMES A SUFFUSED YELLOW-ORANGE (PALMER)	MULTI-MAGENTA WITH BLACK WEBS - USUALLY DARK OR BLACK BY SPRING (PALMER)	BLACK - SEEN WHEN AT REST (STANDING), WALKING AND FLYING.
<u>POSTURE</u> WHEN 'AT EASE' OR RESTING, THE NECK IS 'KINKED' OR CURVED BACK AT ITS BASE, NOT HELD ERECT OR GOING STRAIGHT UPWARD FROM THE VERY FRONT OF THE BODY. WHEN ASSUMING AN ALERT POSTURE, THE NECK IS HELD ERECT. (PALMER, ROBERSON)	LACKS THE 'KINKED' NECK POSTURE WHEN AT EASE, THE NECK GOING STRAIGHT UP FROM THE VERY FRONT OF THE BODY. (PALMER, ROBERSON)	FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 MIN THE SWAN AT DYE RESERVOIR REMAINED IN THE 'AT EASE' OR 'KINKED' NECK POSTURE, THE POSTURE WAS MAINTAINED CONTINUOUSLY AS THE BIRD, STOOD NEAR THE RESERVOIR'S EDGE, WHEN WALKING TOWARD THE WATER, AND WHEN SWIMMING. FOLLOWING THE FIRST FLIGHT OBSERVED BY THE SWAN, IT AGAIN ASSUMED THE 'KINKED' NECK POSTURE WHILE LOAFING NEAR A SNOW GOOSE AT THE EDGE OF THE RESERVOIR.
<u>VOICE</u>		HORN-LIKE, MUCH LIKE A HORN FIRED WITH A MUTE PRODUCING OR HAVING A VERY 'ROUNDED' QUALITY. CALL WAS GIVEN SEVERAL TIMES AS IT PADDOLED ACROSS THE WATER (PRE-FLIGHT) AND WHILE FLYING IN CIRCLES ABOVE THE RESERVOIR, NOT LIKE THE 'FLAT' GOOSE-LIKE CALL OF THE TUNDRA SWAN.
<u>PRE-FLIGHT</u> THE HEAVIER TRUMPETER SOMETIMES PADDOLES 100' ACROSS THE WATER'S SURFACE BEFORE ATTAINING FLIGHT. (OBERHOLSER)	TAXIES 15'-20' BEFORE ATTAINING FLIGHT. (OBERHOLSER)	TWICE FLIGHT WAS ATTAINED AFTER PADDOLING ON THE WATER'S SURFACE, APPROXIMATELY 50' AND 75'

SIZE - VERY LARGE BEING MUCH LARGER BODIED AND LONGER NECKED THAN A SNOW GOOSE W/ WHICH IT WAS SEEN LOAFING AND FLYING.

LIGHT - SUN BEHIND OBSERVER LIGHT QUALITY EXCELLENT ALLOWING THE OBSERVER TO DISCERN SUBTLE COLORS OF DUCKS NEAR THE SWAN WHILE STUDYING BILL FEET, AND LEG COLOR.

CHARACTERS SUGGESTING TUNDRA SWAN

- ① PLUMAGE PATTERN - GRAY ABOVE - WHITE BELOW

CHARACTERS SUGGESTING TRUMPETER SWAN

- ① PLUMAGE PATTERN
- ② BILL COLOR
- ③ BILL AND HEAD SHAPE - SLOPING PROFILE
- ④ LEG AND FEET COLOR
- ⑤ POSTURE - 'KINKED' NECK AT EASE POSTURE
- ⑥ HORN-LIKE VOICE

DISTANCE OF OBSERVATION - 100' - 200' AT NEAREST POINT
TIME OF OBSERVATION 1430 - 1530 (ESTIMATE)

OTHER OBSERVER - JOHN MAYNARD, COLORADO SPRINGS
THE ONLY FIELD MARK NOTED BY MAYNARD WAS
THE BIRD'S 'ATEASE' AND ALERT POSTURE.

OBSERVER - RICHARD BUNN 473-2710
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REFERENCES - HANDBOOK OF NA BIRDS, PALMER 1976
RARE BIRDS OF WEST COAST - ROBERSON
BIRD LIFE OF TEXAS - HARRY OBERHOLSER

Richard Bunn
18 DEC 83