

APPENDIX II

8-84-50

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

A

Species: Trumpeter Swan ; Cygnus 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): 12/19/84 Time Bird Seen: 3 to 4 PMLocality: Approximately 1 mile northeast of Mack,
Colorado, Mesa County
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: B+L 15-45X spotting Scope + B+L 7X BinocularsIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Mimolta 35mm w/200mm lensNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: WhiteLight conditions: Good, clear sky, no fogDistance from bird, and how measured: 40-50 yds - estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Swimming in open water on partially frozen irrigation reservoir.
one flight around lake and landed again.Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Irrigation reservoir
near Mack Wash. Cottonwoods, cattails, saltgrass, Greasewood.

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

Mike Lockhart and Rick Krueger US Fish and
Wildlife Service, Grand Junction, 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. Large white bird with black bill. Long neck with red collar attached. Pink "grin line" was observed while swan was drinking water. Red neck collar had RZ in black letter on side. Also, a large bulge was observed on collar which contained a radio transmitter. The bird was trapped and banded by Terry McEneaney at Red Rocks Lake, Montana during the summer of 1984. McEneaney identified the bird as a male weighing 24 lbs at the time it was banded. It was last observed in Yellowstone Natl Park before being sighted in Colo. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Low "honking" sounds while swimming in water.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Tundra Swans - no pink "grin line", concave bill w/yellow spot in front of eye. Twelve tundra swans were on the lake with the trumpeter swan. Yellow eye spots were observed on the ~~the~~ 4 adults.

Prior experience with this and similar species: None. Have observed tundra swans in the past.

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

Name (print) : Van K. Graham

Mailing address: 711 Independent Ave Grand Junction, Co. 81505

Signature: Van K. Graham

Return Form To:

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

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Dates (s): 12/19/84 Time Bird Seen: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PMLocality: Small agricultural reservoir in the
vicinity of Mack, Colo. (Grand Jct area) Mesa Cty.
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: B&L 7X Binoculars B+L 15X to 45X Spotting ScopeIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Minolta 35mm w/macro
Being developed - available at later date. zoom lensNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNK Plumage: White - adultLight conditions: Clear, cool 35°FDistance from bird, and how measured: 40-50 yardsDescribe the bird's overall behavior: Resting on water and walking
on ice. Flew and returned to reservoir - short circular
flight around reservoir.Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: From shore of irrigation
reservoir 5-10 ac in size. Agricultural crops, Greasewood, and
marsh habitats nearby.

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

Mike Lockhart and Rick Krueger US Fish + Wildlife
Service 551 25 1/2 Rd Grand Jct, Colo. 81505

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.

Large (50"-60") white bird. long neck w/ black bill, pink edge along bill at mouth (observed when bill was open). Typical swan-type body shape. Slightly concave bill w/ flat forehead. Dark/black legs. ~~gray~~

No ^{gray} brown color - entirely white. Banded with red neck collar 3 in. long with Black alpha-numeric code RZ. Collar has ~~bulge~~ bulge (vertical) on collar. ^(radio transmitter)
 * See note below
 Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

low honking while resting on water,

This bird was not afraid of our presence, thus, providing very good time/circumstances for observation. heard this 2 to 3 time - single honks

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Trundra Swans

Tundra swan. Observed 12 (4 adults & juv.) on the irrigation reservoir at same time. Smaller size. Observed yellow spot on bill in front of eye. These bird would not associate with the trumpeter swan. Snow goose - this bird had no black tipped wings. Prior experience with this and similar species: Have not observed Trumpeter Swan before. Have observed trundra Swans on annual basis in past few years.

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

Name (print) : Van K. Graham Wildlife Biologist

Mailing address: 3245 Applewood St. Colo Div. of Wildlife
Grand Jct, Colo. 81501 711 Independent Ave
 Signature: Grand Jct, Colo. 81505

Return Form To:

Van K. Graham

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

Machinney
 Terry ~~Machinney~~

* Mike Lockhart (USFWS) has been in contact with the biologist at Red Rocks Lake, Montana concerning this bird. It is one of seven Trumpeters banded w/ ^{red} radio collar. Bird was banded at Red Rocks and was thought to be nonmigratory. Further details on this bird will be (age, sex, etc) provided as I obtain them.

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON MARKED TRUMPETER SWANS

3gainer
8-84-50.
RECEIVED MAR 13 1985

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Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge(Lakeview, Montana) is color-marking adult trumpeter swans, in an effort to document their movements in and around the Tri-State area of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Much to our dismay, one of our marked trumpeter swans have been observed wintering in western Colorado. This is one of the few records for the trumpeter swan in Colorado, and the first time a trumpeter swan has been observed on the west slope of Colorado. In an effort to monitor the movements of these marked trumpeter swans, we are asking for your cooperation.

Trumpeter swans from this region of Montana are marked with a red neck-collar.

black letter

R

followed by one or two numerals

Radio transmitters are attached to these collars, but are believed to be no longer working(164.4 to 164.7 mHz).

Please submit your sightings to:

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Monida Star Route, Box 15
Lima, Montana 59739

Telephone: 1(406) 276-3347

Thank you for your cooperation!

