

8-89-6

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Species: Trumpeter Swan - Cygnus buccinatorDate: May 13, 89 Time Bird Seen: 8:00 AM to 8:15 AMLocality: Foster Lake - East of Longmont - Just West of I 25Optical equipment: 10 X 40 Trinovids - 30 power spotting ScopeNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: male? Plumage: AdultLight conditions: Overcast (Partial) - Good Sun at timesDistance from bird: 300 yardsDescribe the birds overall behavior: Feeding along edge of Cattails
clipping head - neck & Top of Body downDescribe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Senai Shallow lake
lots of Cat tails along north & West Sides - Sheltered
by trees at several placesOther observers: Mrs. Francis Bolton / C.F.O. members at other times
Bill Patton

Describe in detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail.

Large Adult Swan Tapered (Wedge shaped) beak & head
No visible yellow on beak or skin - white body -
black bill - Black legs - at times it would sit
quietly and observe surroundings - neck tucked back at
base.

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

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Other Swans - lack of yellow on base of bill - Posture at rest - shape of
head.

Prior experience with and similar species:

Many times watched at close range in Yellowstone and on refuge
in AlaskaThis report was written from notes made during ✓ after observation:
from memory Signature: D.W. Bolton

SPECIES: TRUMPETER SWAN
LOCATION: LONGMONT AREA LAKES

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DATE: 3/23 AND 3/24/89 THE BIRD WAS SEEN ON LITTLE GAYNOR RES. ON 3/25 IT WAS OBSERVED ON UNION RES. THEN IT WAS SEEN AS IT FLEW TO A SMALL POND 2 MI NE OF UNION RES. ABOUT 2 WEEKS LATER, I HEARD A SWAN WAS BEING SEEN ON FOSTER RES., 3 MI E. OF UNION. WHEN I SAW THAT BIRD I 3 WAS PRETTY CERTAIN IT WAS THE SAME BIRD. I HAVE SEEN IT ON FOSTER RES. 10-20 TIMES, IT WAS STILL THERE 6-11.

DISCRIPTION: A LARGE WHITE BIRD WITH A GRACEFUL LONG NECK. IT HAD A FLAT FOREHEAD PROFILE WITH A STRAIGHT UPPER BILL EDGE. WHERE THE BILL MET THE EYE IT WAS AS WIDE AS THE EYE SO THE EYE APPEARED TO BE AN EXTENSION OF THE NARROWING ANGLE-NOT A DISTINCT BULGE AT THE END. THE BILL WAS BLACK WITH NO YELLOW SPOTS IN FRONT OF THE EYES. WHEN THE BIRD WAS VERY CLOSE (200 FEET) ON GAYNOR RES. I STUDIED IT THROUGH A 40 POWER SCOPE AND COULD SEE RED EDGES (LIPS) ON ITS BILL. THE NECK WAS LONG AND APPEARED TO BE THICKER THAN A TUNDRA'S (BUT I HAD NO DIRECT COMPARISON). IT OFTEN BENT ITS NECK BACK ON THE UPPER BACK SO IT APPEARED TO RISE OUT OF THE UPPER BACK.

DISCUSSION: THE BIRD WAS OBSERVED WITH GOOD EQUIPMENT, SOMETIMES AT FAIRLY CLOSE RANGE, IN GOOD LIGHT. I HAVE NO DOUBT IT IS A TRUMPETER SWAN. THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS IT DOING HANGING AROUND LONGMONT? IS THERE A CHANCE THIS IS AN ESCAPED CAPTIVE BIRD? I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT POSSIBILITY.

OTHER OBSERVERS: MANY PEOPLE SAW THE BIRD INCLUDING JERRY CAIRO, MARK NIKAS, JOHN PRATHER, INEZ PRATHER

Signed: Bill Prather