

8-92-114

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STATE OF COLORADO
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
NORTHWEST REGION: AREA 9

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Thompson, DWM
FROM: Chuck Wagner, Area Biologist
DATE: February 2, 1993
SUBJECT: Information on Trumpeter Swans

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Talked to Van Graham on the phone today and he passed along the following information from Ruth Shay (F&WS?) concerning the Trumpeter Swans near Radium.

Collar #43 was a yearling female which weighed 20 lbs. when captured last autumn. Collar #45 was an adult male. These were transplanted from the Red Rocks Refuge (in Idaho?) as part of a program to extend the range of Trumpeters. These birds were released 15 miles SW of Dubois, Wyoming in the headwaters of the Green River (Wind River Range?). The dry and cold winter in that part of the country may have contributed somewhat to the extensive movements of these birds and others.

Van mentioned that 5 more birds were shot illegally in Wyoming this fall and winter. Luckily most of the violators were apprehended.

Ruth Shay thought that the right wing on these birds should have been dyed yellow or purple. Did you notice this?

Springs, was arrested
near Kerrville, Texas.

CHEYENNE

■ SWAN-DEATH CHARGES

— Two men have been charged in the killings of six trumpeter swans at Seedska-dee National Wildlife Refuge.

Paul Bryant Jewkes, 28, and Douglas Todd Lewis, 24, are accused of shooting the swans Nov. 27. The birds were part of a transplant project designed to establish eight or 10 nesting pairs along the Green River.

Refuge managers say the killings appear to have caused the remaining swan population to flee the refuge.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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NEW STATE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Trumpeter Swan (Neck banded) / Cygnus buccinator
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 11-30-92 and 12-5-92Number of birds seen: Two Sex: M & F Plumage: WinterLatilong: 10 Distribution Code: Habitat Code: Locality: Colorado River, T2S, R82W, S7, SE1/4 Elevation: 6,800 feetNearest town: Bond County: EagleTime(s) observed: 11-30-92 @ 2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.; 12-5-92 @ 3:30 p.m.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 minutes and 10 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Norm Barrett, USFS, Kremmling, CO; Jim Hicks, DOW, Steamboat Spgs., CO

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

OvercastOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x50 Bino's and 20x spotting scopeDistance and how measured: 100 yards, visualIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird: Norm Barrett (?), USFS Kremmling

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Feeding

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

Both birds were neckbanded with a green neckband One was P-45 and the other was P-43. Banded as a pair in Idaho. Seen as a pair

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Description (continued): on 11-30-92. It was reported one was possibly
shot by a waterfowl hunter on 12-3-92. Verified blood spot. to be
swan and that there was only one swan on 12-5-92 with neckband
P-43. P-43 hung around for about a week until river froze up

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery,
(i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

On Colorado river both times

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

These birds were neckbanded

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen both Trumpeter Swans and Whistling Swans in the past.

List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how
this influenced your identification:

a) At time of observation: _____

b) After observation: Van Graham, CDOW verified banding

This report was written from reports made during _____, after
observation X, from memory X

Date and time report was written: 1-30-93

Reporting observer: Bob Thompson Signature: Bob Thompson

Address: Box 617, Kremmling, CO 80459

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

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