

## Colorado Field Ornithologists--Sight Record Form

Species: Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

Birds sighted: Three adults, two immatures.

Time: Approximately 4 p.m., January 12, 1993 and approximately 10:00 a.m. January 16, 1993.

Location: On the Colorado River between DeBeque and Parachute, Colorado.

Status: These observations are undoubtedly of the same birds that spent much of late November and December, 1992 at Mack Mesa Reservoir. These birds are the second record of Trumpeter Swan in Larimer and the second record for Mesa County.

Setting: I originally spotted these birds from a small airplane. I was assisting Van Graham of the DOW with the annual winter Bald Eagle count on the Colorado River. I assumed that they were the same birds that had spent several weeks at Mack Mesa Reservoir because there were three adults and two immatures. The even smoky gray of the immatures suggested that they were Trumpeter Swans even from the air. Coen Dexter and I found the birds again four days later and got a clear view of them.

Behavior: Feeding and resting in shallows of the river.

Description: Adults were huge white birds with a small red line along the edge of the mandible. No trace of yellow on the bill. The black of the eye and of the bill continuous, the bill color as wide as the eye ~~at~~ at the point of contact. No dishing at all on the line of the beak and forehead. The birds often held neck kinked back at the base.

Vocalizations: None.

Habitat: Open water in freestone river.

Similar Species: Tundra swan. Usually shows spot of yellow on bill. Bill slightly concave. Does not hold neck kinked back at base.

Experience: Limited. I have seen Tundra Swans in our area perhaps half a dozen times. I have seen Trumpeter Swans twice in Wyoming.

Books consulted: National Geographic and Peterson (Western) field guides.

Report: Prepared from notes made shortly after the observation and from memory.

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