

ACCEPT 6-1

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Trumpeter Swan

Date(s): Dec. 16, 1995

Time seen: 2:00-2:15; 2:30-3:00 p.m.

Locality: Platte Canyon Res.

Lat/long: 11

Optical equipment: Binoculars, 7x35 scope.

Total
306 SPECIES

Number of birds seen: 8 Sex: Unk. Plumage: 5 adults, 3 immatures

Light conditions: Good. Cloudy bright, light from behind.

Distance from bird, how measured: 100 yards and farther

Weather at time of observation: Cloudy

Prior weather & number of days since change: No recent

Habitat: Reservoir



Behavior of birds: Feeding actively; eventually came up on sand bar.

Detailed description of birds: Obviously swans. Three times (at least) length of Com. Goldeneye which seemed to hang around feeding with them.

* All swans the same size.

* Head/bill profile: straight line from bill tip to top of head; head rounded to back.

* Length of bill equal to length of head. Top of bill, tip to forehead, straight, not concave.

* Black lines from bill to eye formed  on 1-2 birds; formed  on 2 adults and all three immatures.

ADULTS

* Entirely white, although a couple had brownish spots on forehead.

* Bill black; no yellow or hint of yellow spot or line by eye. This seen clearly on all adult birds.

* Black legs with large webbed feet.

* Held necks in varying positions.

IMMATURES

* Dusky all over, although from across lake (500 yards) I thought one immature had a white fore-neck.

* Bills on two of them looked black. One had pinkish coloration to part of bill from center to tip (but with a black tip and two spots on bill where (?nares?) are; basal third black. They showed the same "V" pattern from eye to top of bill.

Field marks not seen: Did not hold neck distinctively. Salmon edge to mandible described in Master Guide not seen.

Bird's calls or song: Silent.

Similar species: Tundra Swan. These birds lacked the yellow eye spot; most had V-shaped pattern eye to eye. One immature had two-tone bill. All immatures entirely dusky. Straight profile different from Tundra (bill not concave).

Prior experience: A few in Yellowstone; also a few Tundras in Colorado.

Description from notes made at the time of observation.



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Also seen by: Urling Kingery, Alan Versaw, Carol Brocker, Deb Ostergard, Peter
Giullete; Joe Roller & Carolyn Cooley; and Harold & Betty Oliver.