

# Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

R-10 Dec 01

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

2001-118

CFO-RC FILE X:

## RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Trumpeter Swan		(Scientific Name) Cygnus Buccinator
Date(s) of occurrence: 11/03/2001, 12/01/2001, 12/02/2001, 12/03/2001		
Number of birds seen: 2	Sex: suspected 1 male and 1 female	Plumage: adult
Exact location: Lake Avery		
County: Rio Blanco	Nearest town: Meeker	Elevation: 6900 ft
Length of observation: approx.. 4 hours total		Time(s) of observation: 1000hrs, 1300 hrs, 1550hrs 0900hrs
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Kim Potter		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Ed Hollowed and Glenn Klingler		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: During the morning observations the light was coming from behind me and the birds were well lit with no glare		
Optical equipment used: Swarovski AT80 HD scope and Swarovski 12X43 binoculars		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): from 250 yards to 500+ yards		
Was bird(s) photographed? Yes Photos were taken with a digital camera with a 2X digital zoom through the 80mm Scope with the eyepiece set at 30-40 with the birds at 250 yards or more away so the quality is not great.		If so, have you submitted photos? Yes, Six photos on two pages
Who took the photographs? Dona Hilkey		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: upper end of reservoir appeared to be in fairly shallow water		
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): One or both of the swans seemed to spend a lot of time with their head tucked under their wing. Best views were when they were swimming.. They did some foraging near the shore along with some mallards, feeding by putting their heads down into the water.		
Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): Very large birds, approx. twice the size of nearby Canada Geese. All white with some rusty staining on the heads. Large black bill sloping straight from forehead to tip with obvious red grin line when seen well through scope. The black skin between the eyes dips in a deep V shape with the dark eyes indistinct from the facial skin. No yellow on the lores. Straight smooth line from eye to base of bill with no obvious curve at gape. Long neck carried well back on shoulders when swimming..		
Describe bird's call or song: I did not hear any call or song		
Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The Tundra Swan would probably show some yellow on the lores which these birds did not. The black facial skin would be straighter between the eyes with the eyes being more obvious being nearly isolated from the facial skin. The Tundra Swan should show a sharp curve at the gape and less pronounced red grin line. The Tundra Swan would hold it's shorter neck straighter and not so much back on the shoulders. Adult Mute Swan would have an orangish bill with a black base which these did not.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've seen maybe a dozen Mute Swans over the years and have closely observed Tundra Swans in Brown's Park and in Wyoming. I looked at approximately 60 Tundra Swans at Bear River Refuge in Utah in spring of this year hoping to find a Trumpeter Swan with them.		
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): The Sibley Guide to Birds Waterfowl by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn National Geographic's Birds of North America third edition I spent the first 15-20 minutes looking at the birds through the scopes, made note of the bill shape then went to the Sibleys book to check on field marks. The other books I looked at later at home to learn as much as I could to determine the difference between Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, more field marks to look for when I went back to take photos of the swans.		
This report is from notes made during X or after X observation or later from memory		
Date of written report: 03December2001		Signature: <i>Dona Hilkey</i>
Reporting observer: Dona Hilkey		
Reporting Observer's Address: 2400 RBC Road 12		



CFO-RC FILE #: 2001-118  
RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

R-9 Dec 01

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM**  
(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)Species: Trumpeter Swan Cygnus buccinator  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s) of observation: 30 NOVEMBER 2001Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: UNK Plumage: AdultExact location: LAKE AVERYCounty: Rio Blanco Nearest town: Buford Elevation: 6985 ft.Length of observation: 40 minutes Times(s) of observation: 11:00 - 11:40Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Dona HilkeyOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): Ed Hollowed Glenn KlinglerLight conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's position): Birds west of observer, light snowOptical equipment used: KOWA 82 mm Spotting Scope w/ 20 x 60 x ZoomDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Range w/ birds movement 450-600 ydsWas bird photographed?: YES If so, have you submitted photographs? ATTACHEDWho took the photographs? Dona HilkeyDescribe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Lake Avery is 1/2 mile long and as wide as 1/2 mile in some places. A manmade Reservoir in mountain shrub habitat along the White River drainage.Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):  
I observed the birds swimming together and sometimes preening.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

SEE ATTACHED DESCRIPTIONDescribe bird's call or song: NOT HEARDDiscuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Smooth bill shape eliminated mute swans. Long straight neck, lack of yellow on bill, shape of bill & size of bill eliminate Tundra swans. All black bill on adult birds eliminates all Swans.What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I see Trumpeters on the west slope about every three years and see them in Wisconsin sporadically. I see Tundra swans at least once in most years.List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):  
Used National Geographic Society Field Guide, Audubon Master Guide to Birding and Sibley Guide to Birds after observation for confirmation of identity. Consulted Sibley Guide during observation for field marks.This report was made from notes made during ✓ or after observation, or later from memory \_\_\_\_\_Date of written report: 2 December 2001Reporting observer: Kim M. Potter Signature: Kim M. PotterObserver's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send report to: Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 157, Arvada, CO 80001

30 November 2001  
Kim M. Potter  
809 Cedar Dr.  
Rifle, CO 81650

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

- Birds both are all white with no yellow observed on the bill or lores. One of the birds had a light rusty tint on it's head feathers, something like cranes get.
- They were at least twice as big as nearby Canada Geese.
- A deep V between eyes to the bill was observed.
- The line from the head to the tip of the bill was straight and smooth looking, bill was not curved.
- Necks were long and straight, twice the body height, the necks were kinked at the base a lot of the time.
- Bill size seemed equal to or greater than the head and the eyes were incorporated into the bill area and not distinct from the bill.
- No neck bands were observed and it could not be determined if they had leg bands.



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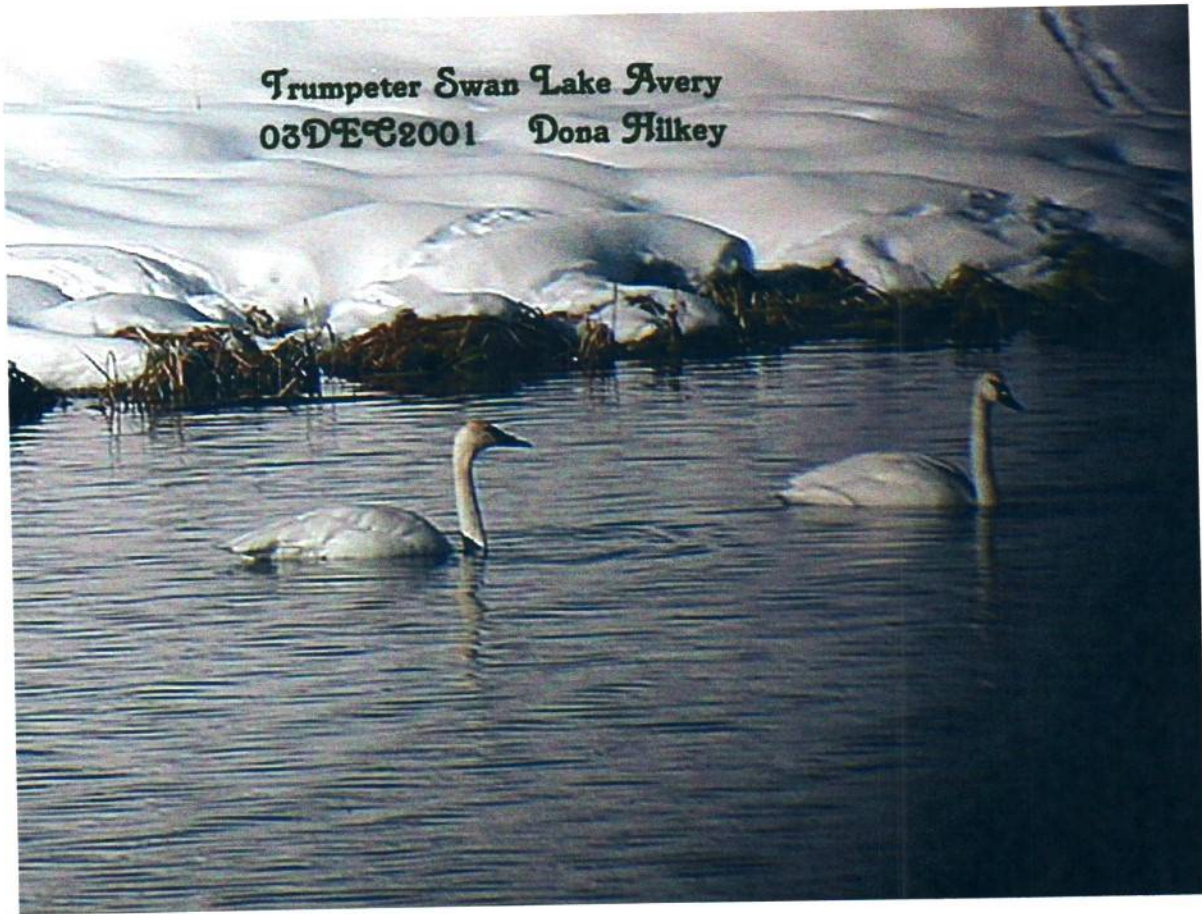
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03DEC2001 Dona Hilkey



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