

Submit to:

SOUTH DAKOTA RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

c/o David Swanson, Dept. Biology, Univ. So. Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

Rare Bird Observation Form

2003-6

rec'd
1/14/03

A

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, a sighting that should be shared with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be accurate. Future bird students—those studying occurrences 50 years from now—must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are helping to further knowledge of South Dakota bird populations. This procedure is required of all extraordinary observations, regardless of the observer. Thank you for your time.

Common Name Trumpeter SwanScientific Name Cygnus buccinatorObservation Date Dec. 30, 2003 Time(s) 1:45 p.m.Duration of observation 15 minutesDistance from bird approx 20 yds - then 10 yds.Light Conditions OVERCAST - Good visibilitySwift 8.5x44 "Audubon" BinocularsOptical Equipment 22x w.a. B&L BatscopeNotes made at time of sighting? ☒Notes made later from memory? ☐

Date report prepared:

1/10/04

Location of observation (be as specific as possible)

Eagle County. 1.2 mi. west of intersection of Hwy #131 and Colorado River Road (#301).

Weather at time of observation

32° winds - calm sky - overcast

Prior weather (how many days since last change?)

Same as 12/30 for 2 prior days - unsure of last weather change

Enter number of birds in each category.

SEX (ES)

AGE(S)

PLUMAGE(S)


PHOTO/DRAWING? TAPE RECORDING?

Males ☐Adults ☒Adult ☒Breeding ☐Juvenal ☐Available ☐

Total number observed:

Females ☐Juv/Imms. ☐Winter ☐Dark Phase ☐Enclosed ☐Unknowns 12-3 yr. birds ☐Eclipse ☐Light Phase ☐NEITHERUnknowns ☐Other ☐Description of bird: include all field marks YOU ACTUALLY OBSERVED including details on size, shape, colors, bill, feet, eyes, plumage, etc.

Large all white (adult plumage) swan with all black bill, legs & feet. Bird was standing on ice next to flowing river so I could see entire bird.

Head: Black eyes/bill. Faint yellowish color on crown & back of head. No yellow at lores. Bill - "triangular" like Canvasback - bill not concave but straight (upper mandible).  Flesh-colored stripe on base of lower mandible not observed. Black facial skin came to broad point at eye.

Neck - Long, held straight, not curved.

Body - All white. Wings held flat to body.

Do not write below here! For SDBRC use only!

Record Number

Lat/long

Date received

List similar species and describe how or why you eliminated them.

Tundra Swan - much smaller in size - Usually has yellow spot in front of eye (swan I saw had no yellow spot) - Bill on Tundra is somewhat concave not straight. Black facial skin goes to narrower point at eye - then goes straight across to other eye, without forming more of a "V" like the Trumpeter.

Mute - Mute about same size as Trumpeter but adult has black knob on orangish bill - Neck usually forms a curve - Secondaries can be raised - not held flat as Trumpeters.

Describe the behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one(s)? Any interaction between birds?

Bird was standing on ice alone next to flowing river. I sat in my car and observed the bird with scope on partially open window. After about 12 min. I decided to walk towards the swan with scope on tripod. After a minute or two, bird obviously was disturbed by my movement as it defecated and then flew over the river in westerly direction.

What is the habitat at this location? Adjacent or nearby habitat?

Pinyon pine & Rocky Mt juniper on slopes above river. Riparian (willows) habitat next to river. Sage and p/j on other side of river.

Describe the bird's song, calls, or other vocalizations.
How were calls delivered? (from a perch, in flight, etc.)

NO VOCALIZATION

Print reporter's name, address, and phone number.

Jocelyn Lee Baker
3220 Kirkwood Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702

Signature

Jocelyn Lee Baker

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

NO OTHER OBSERVER

Print name

Signature

Address

Print name

Signature

Address

What is your experience with this or other similar species?

33 yrs. experience w/ Trumpeter Swan which is resident (year-round) as species was introduced in 1960-63 at LaCreek NWR (Martin, SD) & uses satellite ponds in W. South Dakota for breeding. I see Tundra Mute often as both species have been released & I take 1/2 mile from my home where I bird daily.

References used for identification:

Sibley's Guide to Birds - David Sibley