

✓ Powell

letter sent 5/18/83

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Mute Swan How many? 1

Location? Mason City, Iowa - Lake Conatoma

Type of habitat? Man made Lake - 13 acres -

When? date(s): April-82 Mch 19-27 '83 time: AM to + PM

50401

Who? your name and address: John M. Powell - 254 Lakeview Dr - Mason City

others with you: Wife, Daughter, Grandson + 47 residents

others before or after you: '

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Huge Majestic White Neck "S" curved - Orange bill with black knob at base which blend into black frontal area over eyes. Struggles like Canada Geese to fly from water - Wing beats are noisy.

(Enclosed Photo from April - about the 10th '83  
" Mch 19, '83  
" Showing type of Lake  
Newspaper Globe Gazette - Mason City - 3-22-83

Similar species and how eliminated: Whistling Swan - Black straight bill - Pictures for proof - Orange bill with black knob at base is Mute Swan  
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

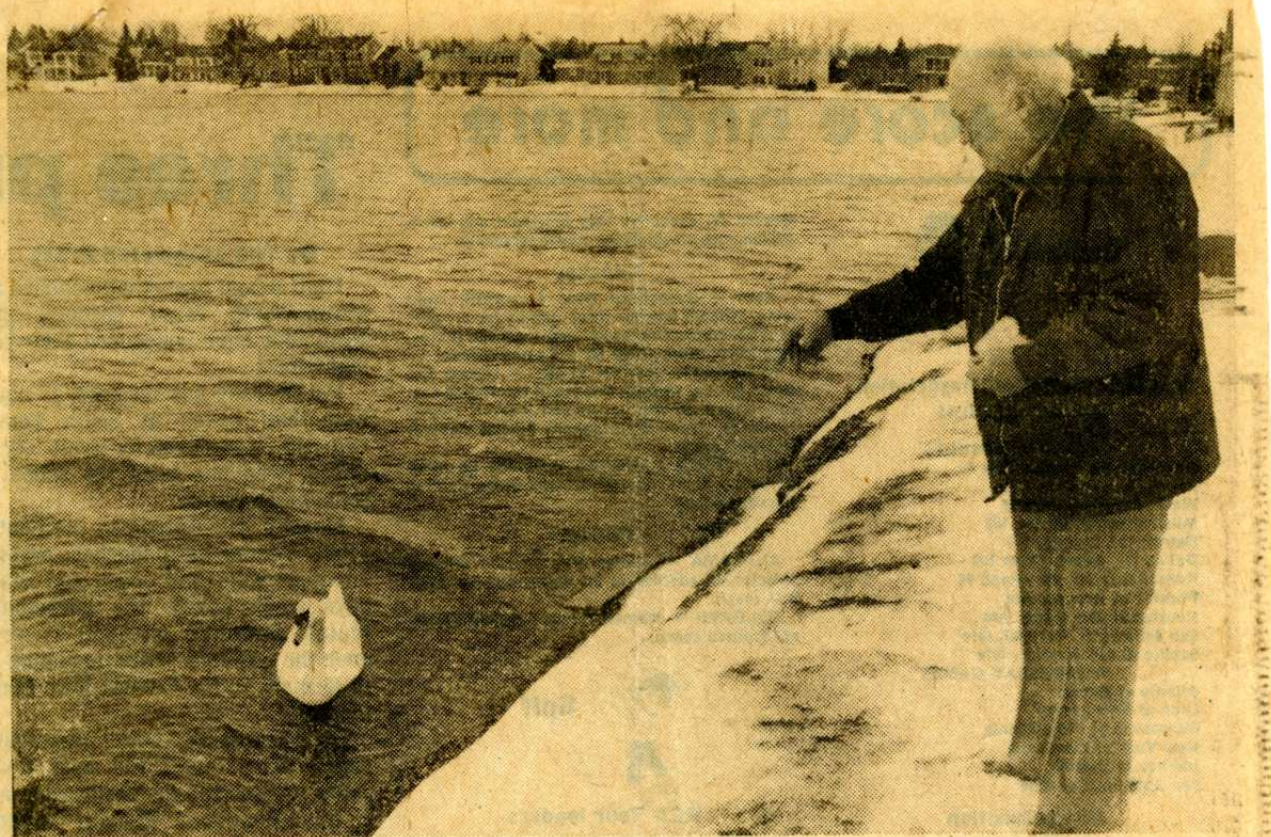
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Actually hand fed in 82 + 83

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Ornithology - Cos College + Museum Methods under Prof. Fred Kubicek - '32 + '33.  
References and persons consulted before writing description:

SEE Pictures

How long before field notes made? Immediate this form completed? 3-29-83



## **Sign of spring**

Capistrano may have its swallows, but Mason City's Lake Conatoma has its swan. According to John Powell, 254 Lakeview Drive, the mute swan that appeared on the lake Saturday is virtually certain to be the same one that showed up there last year during the spring migration. The bird, a domestic variety evidently gone wild, is almost non-existent in this part of the country, Powell explained. He said the odds against two different birds of the species fol-

lowing the same migratory path are immense. Flights of wild whistling swans annually pass through North Iowa during the spring and fall migration, but Powell said that Iowa Conservation Commission staffers told him the sighting of the mute swan was unprecedented in this area. If it follows last year's pattern, the bird will remain on Conatoma for several days before resuming its northward journey. (Staff photo by Jeff Heinz)

*Mason City Globe  
Gazette - 3-22-83*