

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

1994

What species? Trumpeter Swan How many? 1

Location? a marsh on 230th st, 1/4 mi east of Cardinal ave, north of Clear Lake

Type of Habitat? a marsh approx: 600 ft X 600 ft with 2 ponds

When? date(s): Oct 17-94 time: 9-9:30 am to 10

Who? your name and address: RITA GORANSON, 115 LAKEVIEW DR, MASON CITY, IA

Others with you: NO

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The bird was on the back pond so I used my scope = a lone swan, its neck held high - all white except for beak + eye which were black. I looked at Book & saw I needed to check ^{for} yellow skin on bill area to eliminate Tundra - The swan had a totally black beak with a tapering on the forehead gave a vee shape to the white forehead. It was feeding heavily but the couple times its head came up it appeared bent at the base + straight up from there. no tags or marks on it. The beak was not concave on top but slant straight down to the bill point.

Similar species; how eliminated:

I really looked at Book & looked at Bird for marks
Since I'm not that familiar with the bird

It was gone the next day.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

cloudy but close enough 400ft to get field marks
KOWA - TSN-2 — 30 wide angle

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

have seen Tundra + Tundra more in wild but we have a number of clipped / injured birds around.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Nat'l Geographic Guide p. 60 + Birds of No Amer. one month
How long before field notes made? RIGHT AWAY this form completed? Nov 30

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).