

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? American White Pelican How many? 1  
Location? Iowa River, 1 mile NW of Oakville, Louisa County, Iowa  
Type of Habitat? Large shallow river with sandbars, forested shorelines.  
When? date(s): 12-23-97 time: 11:30 am<sup>and</sup> 3:00 pm  
Who? your name and address: Bill Ohde, 515 Townsend Ave., Wapello, IA 52653  
Others with you: Ron Cross  
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.

Large white bird with large orange bill. Loafing in shallow water (sandbar) in the middle of the Iowa River.

Similar species; how eliminated: Our first thought was swan when we saw the large white bird in the water. We first used binoculars and immediately saw the huge orange bill. Then I got out the spotting scope to take a close look.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO  
If yes, explain:

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

Sun in a.m., overcast in p.m., excellent viewing. Distance estimated at 200-300 yds.  
8X40 binoculars, ~~200-300~~ 15-60X spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: We see American White Pelicans frequently on area wetlands spring through fall. I've seen tundra swans many times in the past, trumpeters several times with our restoration work.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 3 weeks

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