

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

(IOWA, MISSOURI, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, OHIO.)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Mute Swan ~~Cygnus olor~~ 2. Number: 1
3. Location 3 miles south of St Mary's, Warren Co., IA in farm pond
4. Date: 10 April, 1979 5. Time Bird seen: 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 still present
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Unmistakably a swan. Shape of bill and curve of neck while swimming typical of Mute

7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior:
9. Habitat- General:  
Specific: farm pond
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6,7 & 8. Explain:

Whistling Swan - smooth bill, neck less curved

11. Distance (how measured)? 60-75 yards 12. Optical equipment:  
20x scope and 7x binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
No sun, but bright
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Numerous views of Mute in parks and zoos, but only two records of Whistling
15. Other observers:  
Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, Richard Mooney
16. Did the others agree with you identification?  
Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
Margaret Brooke and Jeannette Eyerly later in the same day
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Peterson and Robbins, but scarcely needed  
If an escapee we've no idea whence it came

Woodward H. Brown

Address: 432 Tonawanda Dr.

Date: 10 April, 1979 City, State: Des Moines, IA