

Subj: **Story behind Mute Swan #2**
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Sender: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)
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Subject: Story behind Mute Swan #2

First off, the MUTE SWAN continues at Diamond Lake west of Monteczuma, Poweshiek Co. It was very easy to find. There are also excellent mudflats off to the right as you pull into the first parking lot there. I only saw Killdeer, snipe, and a Pectoral, but there's great potential for anything late.

I then explored nearby Fox Forest, which though slow right now looks like it would be *outstanding* in the busier seasons. Has anybody birded this spot?

MUTE SWAN #2 - I actually saw this accidentally while driving by that earlier-posted pond without even knowing it. I just happened to look over at a pond and saw something big and white. It was indeed a Mute Swan. I went up to the house in whose backyard this pond is located and had a very nice talk with Mrs. Francis Elliot there. The swan is one of a pair that the Elliots were given ten years ago, brother and sister birds. The female died I believe a year ago, Mrs. Elliot said. Both had been rendered flightless by whoever gave them to the Elliots.

The previous owner wanted to breed them but they wouldn't, and besides they were nasty to the owner's children. Mrs. Elliot also said this swan regularly evicts any Canada Geese that try to visit there, and in the spring especially will also go after folks fishing.

Nevertheless it's an easy look at a lovely if cranky swan, and as posted the pond is east of Monteczuma, on the south side of state 85, second pond past the intersection of County V-18.

Thank you,
Mike Dooley

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