

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Mute Swan How many? 1
Location? Mississippi River just downstream from Alcoa pumping house
Type of Habitat? River shoreline mid-river
When? date(s): 21 Dec. 1986 → 10:30 10:45 AM
24 Dec. 1986 time: 2:07 10 2:10 P.M.
Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen 235 McClellan Blvd. Davenport, IA
Others with you: 21 Dec. - MargLou Petersen + Dr. Tim Brush 24 Dec. - none
Others before or after you: not to my knowledge except Alcoa employees - present

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, long-necked waterfowl seen near Mallards. Bird's plumage entirely white, neck arched. Bill orange with black at tip, along rear (proximal) edge, knob black + some black below knob

Similar species; how eliminated:

Tundra + Trumpeter swans have almost entirely black bills.

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Overcast but fairly bright - bird 200-400' away, est.
Seen with 20-40x60 scope, 10x binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen all three swan species many times.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 8 hours this form completed? 5 days

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