

Trumpeter Swan

1875

headwaters of Des Moines River, IA

J. W. Preston

Anderson 1907

Record Number: 93-AR

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, There is no reference to a specific record, and it is impossible to tell whether Preston is speaking from personal experience of heresay. /thk

Anderson 1907  
pp 191-192

65. (181). *Olor buccinator* (Rich.). Trumpeter Swan.

At the present time the Trumpeter Swan is a rare bird in Iowa. During the early days the species undoubtedly nested in Iowa, though probably not commonly. A great many authorities have given the Trumpeter Swan as "breeding from Iowa northward," but there is little definiteness about the records. (Snow, Bds. of Kan., 1873, ii; Coues, Bds. of N. W., 1874, 544; Krider, Forty Yrs. Notes, 1879, 70; Ridgway, Cat. Aqu. and Fish-eating Bds., 1883, 19; Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, N. A. Bds., 1884, i, 430; Cooke, Bd. Migr. in Miss. Val., 1884-5, 79; Keyes and Williams, Bds. of Iowa, 1889, 119; Coues, Key to N. A. Bds., 1887, 682; A. O. U. Check List, 1886, 130; Goss, Bds. Kan., 1891, 108; Chapman, Bds. of East. N. A., 1903, 124; Bailey, Bds. of West. N. A., 1902, 70).

W. W. Cooke states: "Breeds from Iowa and Minnesota northward. It was reported breeding near Newton, Iowa, and at Heron Lake, Minn., as well as along the Red River of the North" (Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., 1884-5, 79).

The only definite record of the nesting of the Trumpeter Swan in Iowa which I have been able to trace was received from the veteran collector, J. W. Preston, in a letter dated March 22, 1904: "A pair of 'Trumpeters' reared a brood of young in a slough near

Little Twin Lakes, Hancock county, in the season of 1883, not many miles from where some good finds in the way of sets of Whooping Cranes were made. This was positively *Olor buccinator*. The nest was placed on a large tussock in a marshy slough or creek, and had been used for years by the swans, as I was credibly informed; but the nest mentioned above, so far as I am aware, was the last in that locality. During the earlier days the Trumpeter Swan was not an uncommon summer resident, being occasionally found nesting in some remote and hidden place, and as late as 1875 there were a few pairs known to breed on the headwaters of the Des Moines River. Of course the species of Swans have been somewhat confused in the minds of untrained observers, but to one familiar with the two American species there would be no chance of mistake. For many years I have not seen a Trumpeter Swan in the State."

County records: Blackhawk—"rare migrant; a specimen mounted by myself in museum of Iowa State Normal School" (Walters). Jackson—"tolerably common transient" (Giddings). Linn—"spring and fall migrant" (Bailey). Pottawattamie—Mills—"frequent migrant. I have seen the Trumpeters on the Missouri flying over from the Nebraska side of the river to the Iowa side, and in other directions, at numerous times. The following dates are noted by me in particular: April 5, 1893; Sept. 30, 1894; April 15, 1896; Sept. 20, 1897, and at various times since. They were Trumpeters" (Trostler). Poweshiek—"rare transient" (Kelsey). Sioux—"rare migrant" (Johnson). Webster—"migrant; from specimens actually in hand, and having no yellow at lores and having nostrils nearer eye than tip of bill" (Somes).