

Trumpeter Swan
23 Dec 1984
Otter Creek Marsh, Tama Co., IA
*T. Kent
P-0157, IBL 55:24; 55:58; 58:120

Record Number: 84-32
Classification: A-E

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

PHOTOGRAPHS

Thomas H. Kent, P-0157 (IBL 58:120)

LETTER

L. N. Gillette to Thomas H. Kent (22 May 1985)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 55:24

Records Committee: IBL 55:58

Photograph: IBL 58:120 (P-0157)

VOTE: 3-I-P, 1-IV, 1-V, 1-VI, 1-I-P or VI

I-P, Identification seems easy. Question is how to treat them--are they escapees or are they wild? The fact that they have been breeding in ponds near Minneapolis and that some from this flock wintered in MO and returned to breeding area points to the latter.

VI, ABA Rule 3Bii (Birding 15:73) says 'a bird that is not wild and which later moves unassisted to a new location or undergoes a natural migration is still not wild.' These birds were apparently from an introduced population near Minneapolis that never migrated before.

IV, Certainly Trumpeter Swans, but not of natural occurrence as reintroduced to Minn.

I-P, Unlike the situation with Chukars in Davenport, the Trumpeter Swan came from a self-replenishing, independent population reintroduced in Minnesota over 14 years ago. Minnesotans count them on their state lists similarly to Wild Turkey. The Minnesota population is expanding and will likely show up in Iowa as a migrant again.

I-P or VI, VI if birds considered captive-flock-derived. In this case the decision seems clear--these birds were from a captive flock. However, at what point such birds are considered to be established and self-perpetuating is the key question. Perhaps we should bow to the decision of MOU on this.

V, so far, need more information. The identification seems correct. I think that when color-banded birds are reported we should get information on the bands, the species, where and why banded before we vote. In this case, I want to know the bird's origin. Should they be considered wild or escaped captives? You report they were tame and all may have been banded.

REVOTE (at meeting, 18 May 1985): 1-I-P, 6-VI



Hennepin County Park Reserve District

3800 County Road 24 • Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359 • Telephone 612-473-4693

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- BAKER
- CARVER
- CROW-HASSAN
- ELM CREEK
- HYLAND LAKE
- LAKE REBECCA
- MURPHY-HANREHAN

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- CLEARY LAKE
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- FISH LAKE
- JAMES W. WILKIE
- LAKE SARAH
- SPRING LAKE

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- BAKER PARK GOLF COURSE
- CLEARY LAKE GOLF COURSE
- HYLAND HILLS SKI AREA
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May 22, 1985

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Mr. Kent:

Thank you for your report of the Trumpeter Swans in Iowa submitted through the Bird Banding Lab. These birds left Carver Park Reserve in Hennepin County, Minnesota, on December 12, 1984. They were all birds that had been raised in captivity and released at Carver Park Reserve within the past year. Therefore, I would consider this group of birds to be part of a captive population for the 1984-85 migration.

Swan 83NA continued south with 3 other unmarked swans. It spent the winter near Waynoka, Oklahoma, before returning north via Lincoln, Nebraska. It was first seen in Minnesota near the town of Buffalo on April 8, 1985. It then moved north to a series of marshes north of St. Cloud, Minnesota, where it has settled down with one other bird. It is a 3-year-old female, but we do not know if she is nesting.

Most of our free-flying swans are now on their own somewhere in central Minnesota. Some may be nesting. I'm not sure how you would want to classify them if they return to Iowa next winter.

I have enclosed a brochure for The Trumpeter Swan Society. Periodic updates on the progress of our restoration project appear in the Newsletter, along with information on Trumpeter Swans throughout North America.

Thank you, again, for your report.

Sincerely,

L. N. Gillette
Wildlife Manager

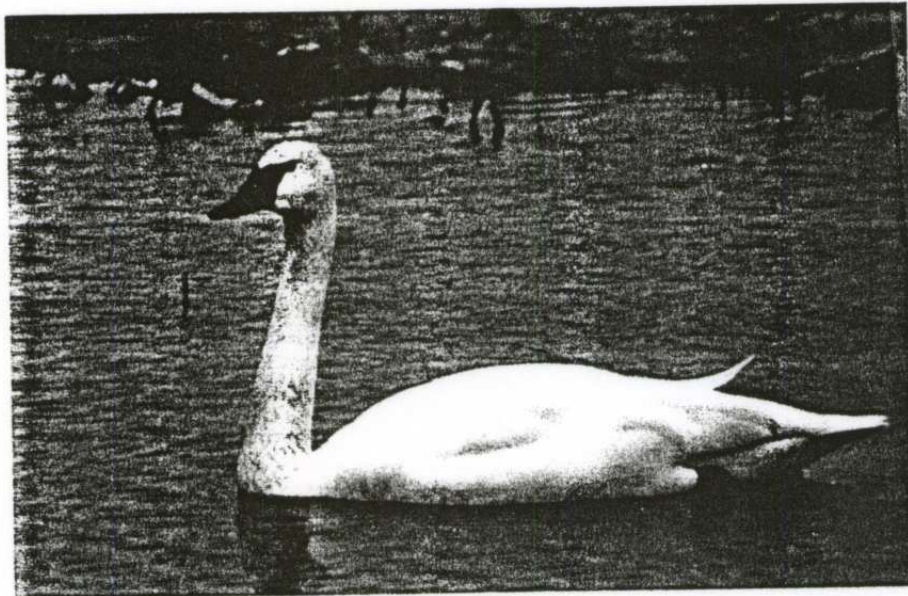
LNG:ab
Enclosure
cc: Danny Bystrak

84-32

Trumpeter Swan Photos: Iowa Bird Life 58:120, 1988.



Trumpeter Swans, Des Moines, 6 February 1988. Photo by Steve Dinsmore.



Trumpeter Swan, Otter Creek Marsh, 23 Dec 1984. Photo by T. H. Kent.

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Trumpeter Swan (9 ad.), 23 Dec 1984, Otter Creek M., Tama Co., IA

Observer: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240

Other observers: reported to me by Gladys Black who had heard about them from someone else. According to her they corresponded to birds missing from some place in Minnesota.

Time: 2:40 to 4:05 PM

Habitat: large riverbottom marsh, central drainage open, ponds partly free of ice. Birds were in pond near east end of south dike.

Description: All white swans with large all black (no yellow spot) bills; very straight upper mandibles extending well up onto the forehead. Three birds had 2-3 inch yellow neck bands. Several, if not all, had yellow leg bands.

Song: Occasionally made soft trumpet-like sound; just before they flew off, they all trumpeted loudly for a minute or so. Sound much different than that of Tundra Swans I heard in November.

Behavior: swimming, standing, and preening in shallow water and icy edge. Just before I left, they all took off heading west. The birds seemed very unconcerned about me or a couple who were hunting muskrats.

Conditions: heavy overcast, no wind; 20-30 feet (filled frame of with 400 mm lens); 10x binoculars and 400 mm lens.

Similar species: Bill shape and voice exclude Tundra Swan.

Previous experience: Saw Trumpeters in South Dakota and Nebraska this spring, but not this well.

References/time used: Looked at field guide next day.

Time of notes/taped: dictated 5 min. after leaving; typed 17 hours later.