

Trumpeter Swan  
21 Nov 1988  
Ingham L., Emmet Co., IA  
\*Kent  
IBL 59:10, 76

Record Number: 88-15  
Classification: A-E

## DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

## REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:10

Records Committee: IBL 59:76

VOTE: 3-A-D, 2-A-E, 1-NA, 1-abstain

Status of species unknown.

A-D. Unbanded Trumpeters are regularly seen in Iowa during the winter. They are wild even though the stock they originated from might have been captive. Since, Trumpeter Swans were once native to Iowa I think they should be added back to the state list. It has more right there than the Mute Swan.

A-E. Good description of adult Trumpeter Swan. Bill shape and neck posture used to eliminate Tundra Swan. The date and location suggest this bird was from the Minnesota flock, although no mention was made of wing tags or bands (but not all Minnesota birds are banded).

NA. How do we know that this bird is not from recent captive propagation program that has not been in existence long enough to be deemed a successful reintroduction. I guess I need more specific evidence that some of these reintroduction programs have been successful or not before I can make a final decision on this one. Description and voice almost certainly that of Trumpeter Swan. Not knowing origination of this bird or if it could come from a naturally sustainable population prevents me from giving an adequate acceptance vote on this one. We need more info on this species and its relation to the individuals seen in Iowa.

A-D. There is the problem of origin, but I feel the offspring of the Minnesota population are countable--any without wing or neck markers. This is a transported population of a U.S. population not an introduction from a foreign source so the 10 year rule doesn't apply.

A-D. Key ID features seen and compared with Tundra. Interesting record of a bird which may not have come from the Minnesota flock. Probably a LaCreek Refuge migrant.

REVOTE: 3-A-D, 4-A-E

A-E. I will accept as countable when Minnesota does.

A-D. Add to state list.

A-E. No problems with identification, but origin poses problems. The location is a strong indication that the bird came from the Minn. flock. I myself do not consider the Minn. flock wild and self-sustaining since some of the birds are fed and protected, esp. in winter. I do, however, feel that the young produced by these birds are subject to the ten year rule, making them a valid species in Iowa in about 1994.

A-E. I assume that NA voter is undecided between A-D and A-E,

and, therefore voted NA to cause reconsideration. Since everyone has accepted the identification, I break my abstention to vote for the more conservative A-E. Further action should be deferred to the next committee meeting.

A-E. My comments as the only NA stand but will change to accepted but that the origin not adequately established to say whether this was from a wild population or not.

A-D. I strongly object to inference that this bird is from the MN flock. It is the only NW Iowa record, is unmarked, and there is precedent of banded LaCreek birds reaching Missouri. I believe the odds are that this was a LaCreek bird, which flock I consider to be wild.

SENT TO: none

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

88-15

What species? Trumpeter Swan How many? 1

Location? Ingham L., Emmet Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Frozen glacial lake

When? date(s): 21 Nov 1988 time: 2:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: Francis Moore

Others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

A white swan with black bill and black legs sleeping and standing on ice near flock of Canada Geese, but apart from them. We first notice the backward bend of the neck at the waterline. This pose was taken repeatedly. The all black bill was straight on the upper side as seen from many angles. The black extend to the eye in a pointed fashion. While we were moving to a new position, the bird took flight and we followed it in the car. Finally it flew over us and after it went by we heard a buzzy-like note twice. It was flying over a flock of Canada Geese at the time and ~~the~~ the sound was much different from the geese.



Similar species; how eliminated:

About two hours later we found a Tundra Swan at Ulm Slough at closer range. The neck was straight at the base and the black did not come as sharply to the eye. It was seen head on and the black came across the forehead without a pronounced V. and the upper mandible was not straight.



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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

150-200 yds, Sun behind us, 20x scope, 40x Quantum, 10x binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen Trumpeter in Iowa (close range), SD, NE, WA

References and persons consulted before writing description:

We look at National Geographic Guide

How long before field notes made? 4 hrs this form completed? 4 hrs

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