

Trumpeter Swan  
13 Dec 1993  
L. Manawa, Pottawattamie Co., IA  
\*Tanya Bray  
IBL 64:46, 68

Record Number: 93-29  
Classification: A-D

#### DOCUMENTATION

\*Tanya Bray, 1107 Ironwood Court #186, Bellevue, NE 68005

#### REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 64:46

Records Committee: IBL 64:68

VOTE: 4 A-D, 2 A-E, 1 NA

A-D, Difficult to say if these birds were a part of some pen raised flock.

A-D, I know that the documentation may not support this conclusion but I do believe these were Trumpeter Swans rather than Tundra.

A-D, We've been waiting around for about five years for Minnesota to decide if these are established -- perhaps that's long enough. I think it's about time for Iowa to start accepting conclusively identified birds that show no signs of captivity or questionable origin, e.g., bands, collars, etc.

A-D, Bill description and kink in neck seem good for Trumpeter. I'm not sure that juveniles can be absolutely identified in December, but juvenile description is supportive.

Addendum to above, A-E, When I went to file my last batch, I noticed that I got a bit sloppy and indicated A-D rather than A-E for Trumpeter Swan. You can change it for me if you like. On the other hand, we probably need some discussion soon on the status of this species in the state. What might be some indicators that birds are from the established population at Lacreek? Where in Minnesota is establishing their reintroduction population? I'm not sure when that project started, but we've certainly been seeing birds for several years now. It appears there are more and more unmarked birds showing up.

A-E, I am willing to consider changing status of this species, but we should do it at a meeting and set up guidelines.

NA, Distance apparently is great enough to make subtle differences between Trumpeter and Tundra hard to see. If the documentor could not be sure of color of bill then it would be equally hard to see the shallow V on the birds forehead. It would also be hard to tell if the juvenile plumage was darker than that of the Tundra juvenile in the rainy gray overcast conditions without direct comparison of the two species side by side. Enough doubt remains on this record to keep it NA for now.

REVOTE (at meeting, 14 Aug 1994): 7 A-D

Trumpeter Swan (2 adults, 1 immature)

December 13, 1993      9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County

Before me: Babs Padelford

With me: Loren and Babs Padelford

Description: Adults: very large entirely white birds. Long slender neck with "kink" at base. Black bill with no yellow (although admittedly if there was yellow, I doubt I could have seen it). Black of bill extended to broad area at eye, and shallow V at forehead. Black legs and very large black webbed feet. None of the three had neck collars or leg bands.

Juvenile: dusky plumage overall, darkest around head, upper neck and back.

Behavior: All three were swimming and feeding when first observed. They then climbed out onto the ice, and walked about ten feet to another area of open water. One bird flapped his wings, and there was no black on wings at all.

Other species: Black bill without knob and neck posture eliminates Mute Swan. Tundra Swan eliminated by neck posture and lack of yellow on bill; darker plumage of juvenile.

Conditions: Gray, overcast with light rain. Birds were across lake approximately 350 yards away.

Equipment: 25 spotted scope; 7 x binoculars.

\*\*These birds were seen at close range the previous afternoon by Babs Padelford who identified them as Trumpeter Swans. The next morning when I saw them, viewing conditions were less than optimal. It would be best to rely on Babs' documentation.

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