

Trumpeter Swan  
< 1907  
Webster Co., IA  
Somes  
Anderson 1907

Record Number: 93-BD  
Classification: A-D

## REFERENCES

- Anderson 1907  
Ridgeway, R. 1887. A Manual of North American Birds, 2nd ed..  
p 120.  
Baird, Ridgeway, and Brewer. 1884. The Birds of North America,  
Water Birds. p 430.

VOTE: 5 A-D

A-D, Although no dates are given, Somes describes four specimens he had in hand. Neither of the field marks that he mentions is diagnostic according to a source that I found (Kortright, F. H. 1942. The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America. The Stackpole Co.: Harrisburg, PA. p 69). Kortright says, "If the specimen has a yellow spot in front of the eye, it is a Whistling Swan. As this mark is not always present, its absence does not prove the specimen to be a Trumpeter. The position of the nostril in relation to the eye and tip of the bill (see above) is variable and, therefore, cannot be relied upon." The Ridgeway (1887) and Baird, Ridgeway, and Brewer (1884) references are inserted here because they may reflect the information available to Somes at the time, and because they mention the range including Iowa (without reference to a specific sighting). Ridgeway's key identifies Somes' birds as Trumpeters. Somes reported Whistling Swan as a "transient" (Anderson 1907, p 191); i.e., he did not mention specimens for comparison. Somes seems to me to have been one of the more careful observers who contributed notes to Anderson. If Somes had seen only one specimen, the possibility of two field marks being false indicators would be greater than with four specimens; therefore, I think it is highly likely that he was correct. /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).

## Trumpeter Swan

Ridgeway, R. 1887. A Manual of North American Birds, 2nd ed.

p 120

GENUS OLOR WAGLER. (Page 88, pl. XXIX., fig. 1.)

*Species.*

COMMON CHARACTERS.—*Adults* with whole plumage pure white, the head often stained with rusty; bill either entirely black, or black and yellow; iris dark brown; feet black. *Young* ashy, sometimes tinged with brownish, the bill flesh-color (or at least partly of this color), and feet grayish, or whitish. *Eggs* white or buffy white.

*a*<sup>1</sup>. Distance from the anterior corner of the eye to posterior end of the nostrils much greater than from the latter point to the tip of the bill.

*b*<sup>1</sup>. Basal portion of bill and entire lores yellow in adult.

*c*<sup>1</sup>. Yellow of bill surrounding nostrils; wing 23.00 or more, and culmen 4.00 or more; length about 4½–5 feet, extent 7–8 feet, wing 23.00–26.00, culmen (including naked space on forehead) 4.00–4.75, tarsus 4.00, middle toe 5.00–6.00. *Eggs* 4.28 × 2.88. *Hab.* Northern parts of eastern hemisphere; occasional in southern Greenland.

179. *O. cygnus* (LINN.). **Whooping Swan.**

*c*<sup>2</sup>. Yellow of bill not extending as far forward as the nostrils; wing less than 23.00, and culmen not more than 3.50; length less than 4 feet, extent about 6 feet, wing 20.00, culmen 3.50, tarsus less than 4.00, middle toe 4.50. *Hab.* Northern portions of eastern hemisphere.

*O. bewickii* (YARR.). **Bewick's Swan.**<sup>1</sup>

*b*<sup>2</sup>. Basal portion of bill, with lores, black, the latter usually with a small yellow spot.

Length about 4½ feet, extent 7 feet, wing 21.00–22.00, culmen 3.80–4.20, tarsus 4.00–4.32, middle toe 5.40–5.90. *Eggs* 4.19 × 2.72. *Hab.* North America in general, breeding far northward; casual west to Commander Islands, Kamtschatka; accidental in Scotland.

180. *O. columbianus* (ORD). **Whistling Swan.**

*a*<sup>2</sup>. Distance from anterior corner of eye to posterior end of nostril not greater than from the latter point to the tip of the bill.

Bill and lores entirely black; length 5–5½ feet, extent 8 to nearly 10 feet, wing 21.00–27.50, culmen 4.30–4.70, tarsus 4.54–4.95, middle toe 6.00–6.50. *Eggs* 4.46 × 2.92. *Hab.* Interior of North America, more rare or less generally distributed toward the Pacific coast, rare or casual along the Atlantic coast; breeding from Iowa and Dakota northward.

181. *O. buccinator* (RICH.). **Trumpeter Swan.**

<sup>1</sup> *Cygnus bewickii* YARR., Trans. Linn. Soc. xvi. 1830, 453. *Olor bewickii* STEJN. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. v., 1882, 201.

## Trumpeter Swan

Baird, Ridgway, and Brewer. 1884. The Birds of North America,  
Water Birds.  
p 430

**Olor buccinator.****THE TRUMPETER SWAN.**

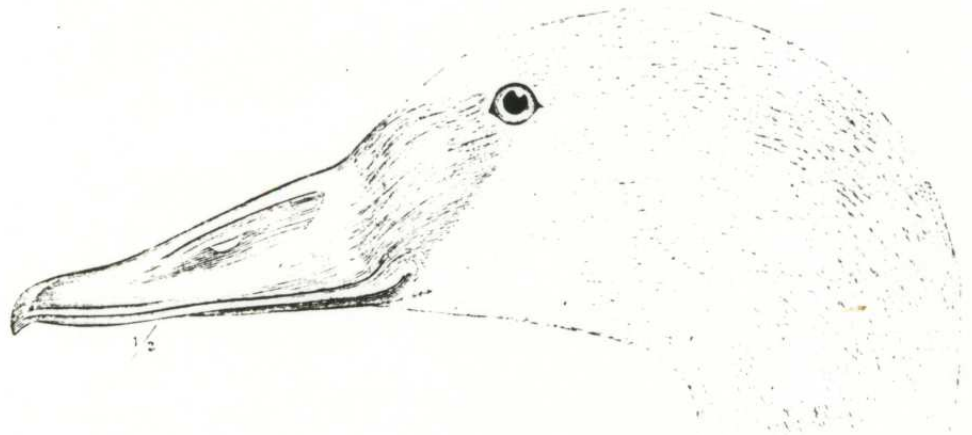
*Cygnus buccinator*, Rich. F. B. A. H. 1831, 464 (Hudson's Bay). — Nutt. Man. II. 1834, 370. —  
Acc. Orn. Biog. IV. 1838, 536; V. 1839, 114, pls. 406, 376; Synop. 1839, 74; B. Am. VI.  
1843, 219, pl. 382, 383. — Baird, B. N. Am. 1858, 758; Cat. N. Am. B. 1859, no. 562. —  
Cope's, Key, 1872, 281; Check List. 1873, no. 476; 2d ed. 1882, no. 688; Birds N. W. 1874,  
544.

*Olor buccinator*, Wagl. Isis, 1832, 1234. — Ridgw. Nom. N. Am. B. 1881, no. 589. — Stejn. Proc.  
U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 3, 1882, 216.

*Cygnus Pissinacci*, HENCKS, Pr. Linn. Soc. VIII. 1864, 1 (Toronto); P. Z. S. 1868, 211. — MOORE,  
P. Z. S. 1867, s. critical).

**HAB.** Chiefly the interior of North America, from the Gulf coast to the Fur Countries, breed-  
ing from Iowa and Dakota northward; west to the Pacific coast, but rare or casual on the Atlantic.  
Accidental in England.

**SP. CHAR.** Tail of usually 24 feathers; bill longer than the head. *Adult:* Plumage entirely  
pure white, the head, sometimes the neck also, or even the entire lower parts, tinged with rusty.



Bill, naked lores, legs, and feet, uniform deep black; iris brown. *Young:* "In winter the young  
has the bill black, with the middle portion of the ridge, to the length of an inch and a half, light  
flesh-color, and a large elongated patch of light dull purple on each side; the edge of the lower  
mandible and the tongue dull yellowish flesh-color. The eye is dark brown. The feet are dull yel-