Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union Printed: 04/25/96

Trumpeter Swan 10 Apr 1994 Blue L., Monona Co., IA *Bill Huser, *Peter Ernzen IBL 64:73; 65:81 Record Number: 94-08 Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776 [19 Aug 1994]
Peter Ernzen, 401 Taylor, Ida Grove, IA 51445 [19 Aug 1994]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 64:73 Records Committee: IBL 65:81 VOTE: 4 A-D, 2 A-E, 1 NA

A-D, Origin?

A-E, Sooner or later we need to start addressing the origins of some of these birds. The location of this bird makes it a prime candidate for a record from an established population.

A-E, Agree with Huser's analysis. Pinkish cast to bill makes this a 1st year bird. Head and neck discoloration could be stain. Difficult, but worth calling based on facts presented.

NA, Field marks described appear to describe Trumpeter Swan. Aging of immature plumage helps to substantiate Trumpeter. Distance is pretty long to be able to see eye and feather detail around eye and on upper bill well enough for establishing that this was indeed a Trumpeter Swan. Has this species established a breeding population in the wild and if so has it been established long enough for us to consider adding it to the state list.

A-D, Nothing is out of place for ID as Trumpeter (Huser). Darkish head and neck but white body is right for spring Trumpeter -- probably about 1 year old (Tundra all white at this age). REVOTE (at meeting, 14 Aug 1994): 7 A-D

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For extraordinary bird sightings in X_IA, __NE or __SD

Species: Trumpeter Swan Number seen: 1 immature

Location: Blue Lake, Monona County, Iowa

Habitat: marshy oxbow with open, but shallow, water

Date: 4/10/94 Time: 07:30 - 10:30 AM

Bill Huser 401 E. 14th St. S. Sioux City, NE 68776

Others with me: None Others before/after me: Peter Ernzen, 4/8/94

Description: A large, whitish bird sitting on the water, feeding by submerging its long neck and head. The body was entirely white, showing no conspicuous, dark body feathers. The neck and head were dirty white and the large bill, dark with a pinkish cast in direct light. The legs were black. The long neck was held vertically except for the lowest five to six inches which laid back upon its back. The bill was held horizontally.

The large, dark bill appeared very straight, with no concavity to the culmen. This staight line extended up onto the crown, leaving no apparent forehead. The dark facial skin at the bill's base appeared to extend to the eye - from my distance, interpreted to mean it was quite conspicuous. The edge of the feathering between the eyes was difficult to see even when it faced me and tipped its head to feed. However, during these brief moments, the feathered line did appear to extend down onto the culmen in the shape of a 'V', rather than a straight line (or the rounded arc that would be expected when viewed from 'above' the bird's head.

Similar species & differentiation: Mute Swans usually have a curved neck posture with the bill held below horizontal. Their springtime bill color is expected to be pink. Tundra Swans are expected to have a concave bill, a slight forehead and a smaller proportioned bill. The facial skin extending to the eye is less substantial. The neck posture is usually vertical without the "kink" at the base. The feathered edge between the eyes forms a straight line.

Disagreeing identifications: Peter Ernzen described it as a swan species.

Conditions - light, distance & optics: Minolta 10X50 binocs, Celestron 32X60 scope; direct, side lighting; estimated 300-350 yards.

Previous experience with species: Trumpeters, but twice; Tundras on three occasions.

References: Nat'l Geographic Field Guide; "Identification of Immature Swans," Peterjohn, Bruce, Iowa Bird Life, V. 56, No. 1; Trumpeter Swan

Society's Swan Identification Broshure. 1918 MOTTATE at any Notes taken, with bird in view: X later: Documented: 4/18/94 1-11:11 the state of the s 10. The court of the test II The state of the s with an artifact of the control of t All efforms as a supplied to the first en en fan de ferste fan de En endere de ferste fan de Fig. For the second of the sec er militaria estas e 2 - 15 7 en la reconstruit de la compansión de la The second of th to any them. If a constant their terms of the state of th and the same of the second era was a finantias financial and ancies, and high a

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DOCUMENTATION FORM For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Swan Sp.

How many?1

Location? South Blue Lake in Monona County on the 8th of April, the bird was present until at least the 29th of April. Type of Habitat? marshy wetland

When? date(s) 4/8/94 until 4/29/94 time, 12:50 pm

time:1st

Who? your name and address:Peter Ernzen 401 Taylor Ida Grove IA 51445 Others with you: none

Others before or after you: Bill Huser of South Sioux City Neb.

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.

Large Swan shape, and size. Black legs, black bill, brown neck,/head white body.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? If yes, explain: Bill Huser tentatively identified it as an immature Tumpeter Swan

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Direct viewing was in to the sun, closest approach was to within an estimated 100 ft, very nervous. Bushnel 7×35 .

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before notes completed? Immediately