

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTINGS IN IOWA

What species? Tundra Swan How many? 5

Location? Rolling Cove Rathbun lake

Type of habitat? Water! Birds with R.B.Gulls at Edge of lake shore

When? date(s): 11/18/88 time: 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Who? your name and address: Dorothy M Cornett; Centerville Iowa

others with you: called her later a Marge Hensink Kroll

others before or after you: Sty Ranger Richard Boedy come by.

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. 5 White Birds:

at first thought to be snowgeese on nearing could see they were larger. Two were All white, No Black on wings, long neck held upright. Black bills, ^{black on tip and} visible yellow speck (spot) in front of eye. Black legs; 3 immature grey, black feet, Pink bill with a black tip. The matures seemed very protective of the young, one on either side of the three. After 30 minutes when another car stopped, they flew, circling a landing perhaps 400 or 500 ft on another sand bank. Been on ~~every~~ any since, sometimes twice, & haven't seen them again. Did a little drawing as I watched. Not much of an Artist?

Similar species and how eliminated: Mute Swan; Smaller: Knob on bill; Neck held differently;

Trumpeter Swan: Black base of tip of bill, flatter, head

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sun behind us, Clear day - 115 yds; stepped off later 8x544 Audubon Bina 15x45 zoom x 60 scopes.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 1 saw Trumpeters in Yellow's zone Marge H had seen Tundra here some years ago.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

MARGE Hensink Kroll: Birds of N.A. Golden Guides to Birds of N.A.

How long before field notes made? As watching this form completed? 5 days



