

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Tundra Swan

Number: 1-2

Date: 3,19 Jan and 8 Feb 1991

Time: 8:15-9:45 a.m. on 3 Jan

Location: Lock 19, Keokuk, Lee Co.

Observer(s): Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA

Other observer(s):

Description of bird(s): On 3,19 Jan, one Tundra Swan was seen below Lock 19 in the company of four adult Mute Swans. The Tundra Swan was roughly 25% smaller than the Mute Swans, both in bulk and body and neck length. The entire body, including head, neck, wings, tail, upperparts, and underparts, were white. The legs were black. The bill was also black, with a "dished" or concave appearance to the upper mandible. The neck was mostly held straight up from the front of the body, not bent back over the body before angling upward. On 8 Feb, I returned to the lock to find two adult Tundra Swans in the company of five adult Mute Swans.

Similar species and how eliminated: The similar Trumpeter Swan was eliminated by neck posture, smaller size, and the "dished" upper mandible. Trumpeter Swan shows a straight edge to the upper mandible.

Optical equipment and viewing conditions: Viewing conditions were good with the sun to one side. Estimated viewing distance was 300 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

Previous experience with species: I have seen numerous swans of all three species in Iowa

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 5 Jan-updated 9 Feb