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Whistling Swan - 54  
Willow Slough, Mills County, Iowa

21 March, 1986

Description: Big, long necks, black bills. 3 had yellow spots below the eyes on the bills, + the spots were smaller on one. White.

Behavior: slept, preened, sat there with necks up. In shallow water.

Similar species: Snow Goose: eliminated by size, relative length of neck, and bill color. Trumpeter swan: eliminated by yellow spots on bills.

Location, etc.: the birds were ~~ESE~~ ESE of me on the far side of the slough. It was evening. Not very overcast but I don't remember if the sun was out or not. Evening. 1500 feet away? More? Seen with 20x scope, but yellow spots visible only with the 40x lens. I couldn't see the swans until several hundred Snow/Blue Geese got up + these 5 birds remained behind. Also seen by Maureen Pace. No books used.

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