

**DOCUMENTATION FORM**  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Tundra Swan (Cygnus columbianus) How many? 4

Location? George Wyth State Park, Black Hawk County, IA

Type of Habitat? Open backwater lake near Cedar River

When? date(s): December 20, 1998 time: 3:10 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you: None

Others before or after you: All before: Tom Stone, Maurice Hanson, Ruby Hanson - all from Waterloo

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.

The swans were together in a small group that included 2 adults and 2 immature birds. All four birds were the same size and appeared to be a family group. Both of the adults had a small yellow spot on the black in front of the eye. The adults were all white in plumage with black bills and black eyes. The immature birds were a dirty white overall with a darker brownish (still very light brown color) on the wings, back, on the neck and head, a little lighter color on the cheek and foreneck. The bill on the immature birds were a dusky pink color on top and almost black at the nostril, the tip of the bill and the area where the lower and upper mandible meet. All four had a concave look to their bills. I did not see their legs or feet, they were swimming as I watched them and the legs or feet did not show. All four birds also held their necks straight up from the breast and was without a kink at the base as a Trumpeter should show, also without an S-curve as a Mute Swan should show. No voice was heard.

Similar species; how eliminated:

See above. Also the two immatures were a lot lighter brownish color than would show for an immature Trumpeter Swan. Adult <sup>and immature</sup> bill color was wrong for Mute Swan. Just did not look like Mute Swans.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy, good light, seen from approx. 75 to 100 yards using 10x40 binoculars and 20x telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen lots of Tundra Swans, and several Trumpeter Swans and Mute Swans.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? Time of sighting this form completed? 4 Hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).