

Yellow River Forest, IA

Double-crested Cormorant

Two observers, both with prior experience in identifying cormorants. 10x and 45x binoculars and scope. In area for three days prior to count and observed from as close as 100 yards in a variety of light conditions. Immature. Size of "medium" Canada Goose; swam low in water with neck straight up and bill angled upwards; Upperparts brown, gular patch yellow, eye dark, bill with noticeable hook at tip, mostly whitish below (especially throat and breast) to the upper belly then turning to brown. In flight the obviously kinked neck and relatively short tail (only about half as long as head/neck) were observed.

Tundra Swan

Observed by two people, both with previous experience in identifying swans. In area for a week prior to the count. Observed from as close as 100 yards in various light conditions and sun angles. 10x to 45x binoculars and scopes. Large size (much larger than Canada Goose), all white except for black bill, eyes, and feet. Pale yellow spot on upper mandible in front of eye. Long neck typically held straight up, not curved as in Mute Swan. Head rounded, upper mandible slightly concave, head and bill profile not long and flat as in Trumpeter Swan.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler

Three observers had unhurried study in good light at 25 feet while the warblers fed in cedars. 7x and 10x binoculars. Size smaller than House Sparrow; slender "warbler" bill; brown streaked back; yellow rump patch and yellow patches on sides of breast; dingy white throat and underparts; dark streaking on breast and flanks; two white wingbars; loud "check" call notes.