

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2459 Hammertown Road
Narvon, Pennsylvania 17555-9726

28 June 1995

Robert C. Leberman
Powdermill Nature Reserve
Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Star Route South Rector, PA 15677

Dear Robert,

Thank you for submitting details on the Trumpeter Swans you saw at Acme Dam, Westmoreland County on 15-23 March 1994 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt it could not accept the record on two grounds: the description did not conclusively rule out Tundra Swan and the wild status of the birds was in question. Some members noted that some Tundra Swans may also lack yellow on the bill and show salmon-pink mandible edges. A description of the eye position compared to the bill would have been helpful. The committee also felt that the origin of the swans was most likely from one of the re-introduction programs in the mid-west and Canada and thus would represent an introduced species.

You mention that photographs are on file at Powdermill, a few members of the committee suggest that the record be re-submitted together with the photos.

We hope this does not discourage you from sending in details on any rare birds that you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 105-01-1994

105-01-1994

**Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in Westmoreland County,
Pennsylvania**

Documentation: by Robert C. Leberman, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677 (412-593-7531).

Between 15-23 March 1994 a total of at least five Trumpeter Swans was observed at three localities in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania:

The first report was of two Trumpeters (in adult plumage) found by Michael and Evaleen Watko at Acme Dam, Acme, PA on 15 March. I couldn't respond to their report that same afternoon, but found the birds the next day, 16 March. The lake froze over completely during the night of 16-17 March, and I could not locate the birds on the 17th, but they had returned by the 18th when they were again found by the Watkos. Don Koch, then, last saw them at this site on the 19th and 20th.

Three Trumpeter Swans (two adults and an immature) were found on Mammoth Lake, south of Greensburg, on 17 March by Mary Shirland, Phyllis Flasher and Mr. and Mrs. Spindle.

On 23 March five Trumpeters (four adults and one immature) were seen by Don Koch and (independently) by Joe Mears in a flooded field ("Lenox Marsh") along Route 31 just east of the town of Mt. Pleasant. Since this last area is close to both the Acme and Mammoth sites, they probably were the same birds now joined into a single flock.

The swans all could be observed at close range, and none had any markings (bands, tags, collars, etc.) to indicate their origin or status. The birders all are familiar with both Tundra and Mute swans.

Because the birds could sometimes be approached to within 150 feet, identification of the Acme Dam swans was straightforward. Their large size and different "carriage" were at once obvious. The black bills lacked any yellow, and the bill profile was longer and flatter than that of the Tundra Swan. We all could clearly see the salmon-pink mandible edges of their closed bills. I flushed the birds while trying to photograph them, and twice heard the Sandhill Crane-like call as they flew; a call totally unlike that of the Tundra Swan. [The recognizable photos are on file at the Powdermill banding lab.]

Verbal descriptions of the Mammoth and Mt. Pleasant birds convinced me that they were all correctly identified as well.

--RCL, 22 April, 1994



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Trumpeter Swan (Tachycineta bicolor)**

Date of Sighting: **15 March 1994 to 23 March 1994**

Location: **ACME DAM**

County: **WESTMORELAND**

Observer(s): **Robert C. Leberman**

Date of Submission: **1994**

Submitted by: **Robert C. Leberman**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas					X			
N. Pulcinella					X			
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes						X		
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner						X		
TOTALS			1	2	2	2		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95