

RARE SPECIES REPORT

105-01-1995

SPECIES: Trumpeter Sw.		NUMBER SEEN: one
SIGHTING DATE: 22 Feb. 1995		SIGHTING TIME: 1:59 pm
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: Lanc. Co, PA DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN:  DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Middletown NMA Stop #1	
HABITAT: partially frozen lake		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: Moon, cloud DISTANCE: approx 100 yards EQUIP. USED: 15000 Spectator LENGTH OF SIGHTING: 1 hour	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: Not heard SIZE: approx size of a Tundra Swan when it stood on the ice among Tundra Swans Body size was only slightly larger. PLUMAGE: white. No ruffles on head or neck.  ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Black bill and black legs.  BEHAVIOR: Standing or walking on the ice.	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: I have seen Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone NP. Tundra Swans are a common migrant in Lanc. Co.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to Tundra Swans. See back page. Adult male swan has an orange bill w/ black base. Imm. Mute Swan has dusky plumage.		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? <input type="checkbox"/> IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? <input type="checkbox"/>		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space):		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Randy C. Miller		
ADDRESS: 607 Woodland Dr. Middletown PA 17055		PHONE # (717) 664-3778
SIGNATURE: Randy C. Miller		DATE: 4 March 1995

In 22 Feb. 1995 I departed to go birding at Middleton in W.M.A. Swans are common in great here. Today there were 1000 swans on the partially frozen lake. I parked at stop #1 and set up my 15.45 periscope.

I was scanning the swans on the ice at approx. 100 yards when I saw a swan that was approx. 2" taller than the other swans. I also noticed the large black bill. It was almost sideways, facing right. I was starting to think Trumpeter Swan. I looked for wing tags or leg bands or a neck color. The swan did not have any. Then I started to look closer. The leg compared to the Tundra Swans was thicker. The bill appeared larger and thicker. The body size was slightly larger. The feature that stood out the most was the bill. If the swan would have been flying it would not have stood out. I watched the swan for a while. It either walked around on the ice or stood. It was in slow company with the Tundra Swans. The Trumpeter's bill was all black. I did not notice any orange on the bill. There was also no yellow around the eye. Some Tundra Swans on the ice did have a yellow around the eye. While observing the Trumpeter Swan I made a drawing of the head and bill. I went back to camp to show several field guides. From the base of the bill to the eye was almost a straight line. From the eye to the bill curved straight out. The eye did not stand out. It looked to be a slight protrusion. The eye of the Tundra Swans stood out.

I was told this bird was from an introduction program. I met another leader who was interested. He said he had seen a Trumpeter Swan the next day he reported on a few Tundra Swans.

On the same date a Trumpeter Swan was with 3000 Tundra Swans at March Creek on 22 Feb. 1995. It was also unbanded. My guess is that it was the same bird.

I wrote to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa to see if they are doing all large Trumpeter Swans in their introduction program. I did not get a response.

eye part of bill

Large black facial area - no yellow

All black bill, approx 1" longer than Tundra

went on Trumpeter swans

eye separate from bill

most Tundra Swans yellow iris that vary in size

swan on Tundra swans

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

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

Date of Sighting: **22 February 1995 to 22 February 1995**

Location: **MIDDLECREEK WMA**

County: **LANCASTER**

Observer(s): **Randy Miller**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Randy Miller**

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					
S. Feldstein					X			
TOTALS			3		4			
DECISION					X			

Comments: *Needs discussion.*

Signature (Secretary):

*J. Chase*

Date:

*2-22-97*