

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

September 23, 1997

Robert Schutsky
115 Peach Bottom Village
Peach Bottom, PA 17563-9716

Dear Bob,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Trumpeter Swans you saw at the Conejohela Flats - Washington Boro on 24 April 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The identification of the Trumpeter Swans were never in question, but, the "wild origin" of the birds is suspect. The committee feels that eventhough the birds were not wearing neck collars or wing tags that they likely originated from one of the reintroduction programs that are in progress along the Great Lake states and Ontario. From what PORC has been able to gather regarding these programs, not all birds are being tagged as they had been in the past causing even more headaches for birders. Because of the uncertain origin of these birds, the committee feels that it is better to err on the side of caution and not accept this record.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 105-01-1996

105-01-1996

BIRD TREKS

30 April 96

Dear PORC (Nick),

I had 5 Trumpeter Swans (2 ad, 3 imm) on the Conejohela Flats all day Wed, 24 April 1996 (0745 - 1700h⁺). Attached are my field notes & sketch on the first adult I saw. By noon there were 5 birds, an apparent family group: 1 ad. ♂, 1 ad. ♀, 3 imm. I saw all 5 necks & all 10 legs quite well - there were no bands, collars, or wing markers. They were wary - would not allow me to approach < 200 yards. They were not there Sat, 4-20, they may have arrived on the big cold front that moved through Tuesday (4-23).

If the Canadian reintroduced birds can be argued against because of family group & lack of bands, then there is a good argument for valid vagrants,

Still present at least 4-28 (Dan Heathcote). I'll send photos when I get them back.

Have fun in Arizona.

Robert M. Schutsky • 115 Peach Bottom Village • Peach Bottom, PA 17563-9716

717-548-3303 • Fax 717-548-3327

Rob

COMFORT ABOARD THE EARLY BIRD II

We suggest that you bring the following items for our winter boat trips aboard the Early Bird II:

- Lunch and snacks - birders work up quite an appetite, especially on the River
- Rain gear - helps protect against rain or wind
- Extra layer of clothing
- Gloves and warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars are a necessity

A variety of beverages are available for sale, or you may bring your own.

It is usually colder on the river than it is on shore. Dress to stay warm and dry. Some people use a blanket to cover their legs. Stay warm, stay dry, and enjoy the birds.

We thank you for not smoking while on the boat.



**"WE HAVE SWEATSHIRTS,
T-SHIRTS AND HATS FOR
SALE!"**

THE EARLY BIRD HOTLINE: 610-383-8840

EBNT sponsors the Early Bird Hotline which covers the entire mid-Atlantic region with special attention to the Susquehanna Valley and southeast Pennsylvania. This Hotline features sightings on recent EBNT tours, your sightings, and upcoming trips including chase trip information. This is followed by the latest recorded hotlines from Philadelphia, Maryland, and New Jersey. Call this number and save money by making just one call and getting all the regional birding information. The Early Bird Hotline is updated three times a week to provide you with a true, current, up-to-date hotline. The number to call is 610-383-8840. To report your sightings for inclusion in the Early Bird Hotline, call Larry at 610-383-1387 or Bob at 717-548-3303.

The cost to operate the Early Bird Hotline is high. There are fees for the telephone service, equipment, toll calls to gather information, and maintenance, not to mention the incredible amount of time it takes to update it three times each week. Any financial contribution toward supporting the hotline would be greatly appreciated. If you find the hotline useful and would like to help, please make your check payable to Early Bird Nature Tours, 63 S. Park Ave., Coatesville, PA 19320 and mark it "Hotline". We will acknowledge your support in our next newsletter.

EXPANDED MAILING LIST

This is our once a year, expanded newsletter featuring a brief run-down of all our upcoming extended tours. This newsletter is designed to go to our entire mailing list, including those living outside our usual single-day field trip range. If you have not been receiving our newsletter every three months, then one of two things has happened: 1- you have not taken a trip with EBNT, or 2- you have not requested to receive our mailing. In order to guarantee that you receive each of our mailings, you must take a trip with us or request to receive our newsletter by filling out and returning the enclosed questionnaire that is found on the last page.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT TOURS - LATE AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1994

Our Labor Day weekend tour to North Carolina's Outer Banks was 5 days of great birding. A major northeast storm with 60 mph winds resulted in the cancellation of our pelagic trip, but also yielded many good sightings along the coast. Tour participants saw 29 shorebird species including 30 *Marbled Godwits*, 2 *Buff-breasted Sandpipers* and a *Wilson's Phalarope*, and 11 different terns including *Bridled*, *Gull-billed* and 2 *Arctics* perched on a mudflat. Additional sightings included an early *Horned Grebe*, *Chuck-will's-widow* and *Mourning Warbler*. On the islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, early arrivals included *White-winged* and *Black Scoters* and an adult *Northern Gannet* at close range. A total of 120 species was observed on the tour.

Early Bird Nature Tour's private charter bike trip to Cape May, NJ over the weekend of September 30th to October 2nd was a great success - yielding an incredible 155 species. There was a fall-out which gave us 25 warbler species including such hard-to-find species as *Orange-crowned*, *Nashville*, *Hooded*, *Wilson's* and an incredible look at a *Mourning Warbler*. There were hawks in the sky all day with near record numbers of *Merlins* and *Broad-winged Hawks* (5000+ in 1 day!), *Red-shouldered Hawk*, *Bald Eagles* and *Peregrines*. We saw the *Eurasian Wigeon* and *Black Scoters* daily, along with flocks of arriving *Snow Geese* among the 14 species of waterfowl. Three species of owls were heard - the best being a *Barn Owl* along Sunset Blvd. Other good finds were a pair of *Yellow-crowned Night-Herons*, *Golden-Plovers*, *Red-headed Woodpecker*, *Gray-cheeked Thrush*, *Philadelphia Vireo* and *Lincoln's Sparrows*. If you'd like to arrange a private tour for yourself, family, group or club to anywhere for any length of time, call us to discuss details.

Fantastic birding can be expected on the Delmarva Peninsula in October and such was the case on our charter trip for Southeast Nature Tours from October 18th through the 23rd. We led a great group of Tampa birders to over 140 species including all 5 *eastern wrens* and 13 species of *sparrows*. The tour enjoyed fall colors and fall birding from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Chincoteague, Prime



**"RIVER TRIPS GO BY
BOAT UNLESS RIVER
CONDITIONS
PROHIBIT. THEN THEY
GO BY LAND."**

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **24 April 1996 to 24 April 1996**

Location: **CONEJOHELA FLATS - WASHINGTON BORO**

County: **LANCASTER**

Observer(s): **Bob Schutsky**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Bob Schutsky**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** 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	1		1		4		1	
DECISION					X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

2-22-97