

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

2469 Hammertown Road

Narvon, PA 17555

September 23, 1997

Anthony Marich Jr.
Box 7
Markeltown, PA 15551

Dear Anthony,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Trumpeter Swan you saw at Bald Eagle S.P. on 2 November 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The bird in the photograph is a Tundra Swan. This identification is based on the following factors: the curve or arc between the base of the bill and the eye stops in front of the eye, so that the eye stands out completely and seems to be joined to the bill by a short black "stalk". In a Trumpeter Swan, the eye is completely enveloped within this curve. The photographed bird also shows a very rounded head unlike the angular shaped head of a Trumpeter. The head of a Trumpeter also peaks on the crown behind the eye. The neck on the bird in the photo also appears too short for a Trumpeter. The identification of Trumpeter/Tundra Swans is probably one of the most underappreciated identification problems in North America. We refer you to Patten and Heindel 1994 if you would like to read more about the identification differences.

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 # 105-02-1996

Reference: Patten, M., M. Heindel. 1994. Identifying Trumpeter and Tundra Swans.
Birding 26:306-318

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Trumpeter Swan (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Date of Sighting: 2 November 1996 to 2 November 1996

Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

County: CENTRE

Observer(s): Anthony Marich Jr.

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Anthony Marich Jr.

Written Description: NO

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							XX	
E. Kwater							X	
R. Ickes						X		
G. McWilliams							X	
P. Schwalbe							XX	
S. Feldstein							X	
TOTALS						1	6	
DECISION							X	

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C Haas

Date:

8-16-97