

RECORD #: 2-A-05

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

Whooper Swan

REPORTER:

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OTHER OBSERVERS:

Kent Fothergill

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

12-21-05

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

12-17-05

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

Snake River 300 yards downstream from owsley bridge south of Hagerman.

HABITAT:

River

CONDITIONS:

Overcast, light wind, light fog. 150 yards through a 45 power spotting scope. sun at our back.

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

during the observation?

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

during the observation?

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

national geographic feild guide to the birds of north america v.4. during observation

melarney's birds of Europe after observation (later that Night)

DESCRIPTION:

This was clearly a large swan, at first we thought we had a bewick's swan but the bird was too large in size and carried itself with trumpeter swans instead of tundra's. large grayish juvenile swan, with large white patches on each side of the bill extending all the way to the nostrils

BEHAVIOR:

hung out only with trumpeter swans, avoiding the nearby tundra swans. slightly smaller than Trumpeters though noticeably larger than the tundra swans. no vocalizations were heard. the bird fed in the standard neck down "tip up" pattern of waterfowl.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

about an hour later we made the final decision after racing back to the fossil beds office and scanning several pictures on the internet of other juvenile whooper swans.

HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

we eliminated the Bewick's race of tundra swans by size, general head shape, and much larger patch on the bill

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

this is a first for me

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

an absolutely amazing day!

WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

Photo