

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 in what I believe to be formative plumage
3. Parish: Iberville
Specific Locality: Sherburne WMA
4. Date(s) when observed: 6 February 2024

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

Approximately 3:10 PM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jack Rogers
City: Baton Rouge
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

n/a

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

James Van Remsen

Robb Brumfield

Steve Mlodinow (via online communication)

Paul Dickinson (via online communication)

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Both backlit and well lit

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Leica 10x42 Binoculars in good condition

Swarovski 60x65 Spotting Scope in excellent condition

11. Distance to bird(s): Approximately 50 yards

12. Duration of observation: 2-5 minutes

13. Habitat: Impoundments managed for waterfowl

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

In flight for the entirety of my observation. While approaching an impoundment with large numbers of expected waterfowl and AWPE, they flushed up. Immediately I noticed the massive white swan that dwarfed the GWFG and AWPE it was flying with.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

A large, white swan that appeared significantly larger than the GWFG and AWPE it was flying directly next to. In flight, I noted that the bill was entirely dark, the culmen appeared very straight, and the bill seemed very large.

16. Voice: One single call heard as it flushed, a single bugle-y call that I cannot find TUSW making anything similar to on Macaulay Library.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Mute Swan-eliminated immediately in field after seeing bill shape

Tundra Swan-The identify of this bird has been called into question on Advanced Bird ID FB Group, which sent me on a deep dive on Swan aging and ID (mostly citing AZFO article on TRUS vs TUSW as well as Waterfowl of North American, Europe, & Asia [Reeber 2015]). See JVR's photos from [Feb 9](#) for better photos. I believe this bird to be in formative plumage, as it has retained scapulars and remiges, which would be appropriate for TRUS in Jan-March. There is much overlap in cere/loral pattern/gape morphology in this age class of swans as well, explaining the apparently small-ish lores on this bird. I believe that the bill size and culmen angle rule out TUSW at any age. Importantly, I did an intense dive of TUSW photos in MLL and cannot find a single individual that has the head shape and rear crown angle that this bird has, which has an intensely flattened crown followed by a sharp 90 degree angle at the back of the head as it transitions into the neck. Sibley notes that in TRUS, the base of the neck widens and has more of a drooping appearance in flight, which this bird has as well.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photographs by myself attached (taken by me with a student's camera); JVR, Esme Rosen photos can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S161057968>

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have experience with birds clearly part of the ongoing reintroduction program at close range in the summer in various midwestern states, and once in DE sorting through TUSW to find out of range TRUS. Much more experienced with TUSW, which winter in

extremely high number on the Carolina coast, and have spent hours studying them at various ranges to attempt to find TRUS.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

n/a

b. after observation:

Sibley Guide to Birds

Waterfowl of North America, Europe, & Asia (Reeber 2015)

Identification Challenge: Trumpeter vs Tundra Swan, as published in Arizona Birds--Journal of Arizona Field Ornithologists (Deviche and Jenness 2022)

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	Via eBird
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes.

23. Date: 21 February 2024

Time: 9:35 PM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

yes _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? __yes_____





