

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 first winter bird by plumage
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Pintail Loop, Cameron Prairie NWR
4. Date(s) when observed: December 17 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: late afternoon, starting about 4:30
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): David Muth, Erik Johnson
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Bird first identified by unknown party earlier in the week.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): overcast but even and sufficient light
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon scope 20-60x, Samsung S4 phone camera
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 100 yards, perhaps less
12. Duration of observation: about 30 minutes of viewing
13. Habitat: Freshwater marsh with scattered emergent veg including clumps of cattails
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird moved little, raised head to view surroundings, or fed with head and neck submerged below water, digging among roots of vegetation, occasionally pulling up plant matter.

A large mainly white swan, dwarfing surrounding geese in terms of body bulk and height of raised head and neck.

Body mainly white except for neck, which was pale gray. Gray on neck perhaps on tips of feathers only, as scope view revealed wetted feathers streaming together into small gray V-shaped bundles against white background.

Some gray feathers mixed in apparently randomly on mantle and wings, but body appeared white. Possibly gray in tail, but not seen well.

Body somewhat convex dorsally, relaxed, wings never arched above (as in certain postures of Mute). Neck often held straight up, sometimes with a graceful but slight curve, sometimes with a kink hindwards at base.



Bill somewhat Canvasback-like in profile, but in some angles with flange creating a slightly convex lower edge. Head-on, bill seemed relatively straight-sided. Bill a dirty but distinct pink, with nares about halfway down length against a pink background. Base of bill appeared dark, but in closer view that dark appeared to be on facial skin or feather. Tip of bill neatly dark with small peak onto culmen at nail, and following cutting edge on about forward $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of bill.



16. Voice: not noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Trumpeter and Mute swans. Mostly white plumage for immature swan indicates Tundra. Bill color, facial skin shape, etc. indicate Tundra. I also consulted with Steve Mlodinow, who has great experience with and has written on ID of swans, on this bird.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: None.

20. This description is written from mental notes and comparisons during observation, study of photos, video.

21. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes.

22. Date: 12/2016