

DOCUMENTATION -- RWS
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

A

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
8-83-23 • AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: Brant (Black Race)
(Vernacular name)

Branta bernicla (nigricans)
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 5-17-80 Time Bird Seen: 10 AM to 2 PM

Locality: 16 miles east of Briggsdale on Colorado 14 in small pond 100 yds S of
Keota, Weld Co. Colorado (Latitude 5)
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Leitz 7x42, Bushnell Scope 40x eye piece

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Over-cast but fairly light

Distance from bird, and how measured: 100 yds (estimated)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Swam + Fed on small water with
11 Canada Geese - small race - same size as white fronted Geese + 1 white
fronted Geese. Stood on Ground + walked in + out of water.
None of birds were observed flying.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

A intermittent pond on the prairie - wet spring + raining
so pond was full. No houses in sight. Keota 5 mi NE

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Inez Prather, John Prather

Mona + Dean Hill } 2051 S. Hoyt Way

Chris + Anne Hill } Lakewood, Colo 80227 986-3832

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

We observed a Flock of 12 birds + 1 smaller darker bird.
Through the scope we saw a dark goose with black head and neck a beautiful delicate ring of white on back and sides of neck black back a white area between back + breast + belly breast + belly to legs, black vent area white. Legs black. No bands on legs.
Through scope we could see 1 white fronted goose + 11 Canada Geese that were about same size as white fronted.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Obvious ID. I feel these were not escapes because

1. Remoteness of area to urban areas
2. Association of 3 species ~~that~~ whose breeding ranges overlap in N. Canada.
3. Other records of N. Canada breeding birds in E. Colorado in April + May. Snow geese, Ross geese, etc. Common. Loons + Ross bill this year alone.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

This report was written from notes made during ___ after X observation; from memory ___.

NAME (print): Bill Prather

Mailing address: Box 456 Fleming, Colo 80728

Signature: Bill Prather

Return to:

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