

CFO-ORC FILE # 2002-128

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(A)

NEW STATE RECORD        UNUSUAL RECORD X

red'd 1/26/03

**Species:** American Black Duck x Mallard hybrid (*Anas rubripes* x *A. platyrhynchos*)

**Date:** 30 November 2002

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** male

**Plumage:** adult

**Locality:** ponds on east side of town

**Elevation:** about 4000 feet

**Nearest town:** Haxtun

**County:** Phillips

**Time observed:** about 15:00 - 15:30

**Duration of observation:** a total of about 30 minutes

**Description:**

Overall, a very dark dabbling duck associating with Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The body was a dark chocolate brown from the neckline to the end of the tail. The head and neck were a lighter brown, contrasting with the rest of the body. There was a thin, dark brown eye-line running through the eye. The crown was also a darker brown than the rest of the head. The bill appeared to be more dusky yellow than the photos show. While swimming in the pond, several male Mallards head-bobbed, which the duck in question also did. There appeared to be a very fine white edging to the tail feathers, and several of the tail feathers curved upwards as in male Mallards.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** I heard none.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen ABDU on the east coast in the hundreds, but not for many years.

**Light conditions:** overcast with the sun setting behind me, poor lighting overall

**Optical equipment used:** Kowa scope 20x60 zoom

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated closest distance at 50 meters

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** none

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none that I know of

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital through scope

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. National Geographic

Reporting observer: Doug Faulkner

Signature:

Doug Faulkner

Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: This report was written on 17 January, 2003 from memory.