

8-73-10
 accepted
 gr 12/9/73

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: EUROPEAN WIDGEON | Marca penelope 2. Number: 1
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Sweitzer Lake, 2 miles south of Delta, Colorado
4. Date(s): May 4, 1971 5. Time bird seen: about 7 p.m. 5 to 10 minutes
 to
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field): An adult male-the rusty head with paler cap and gray sides of body especially stood out-it was feeding with 3 Canvasbacks and was not very wary- I approached in my car to probably 30 to 40 feet and watched it feeding for several minutes with a 32X scope-it was almost sundown and when I started to leave to find someone else to see it, it flew away-I went back several days in a row to try to find it again but didn't.
7. Description of voice, if heard: none heard
8. Description of behavior: typical pond or puddle duck behavior - it may have been picking scraps of food from the Canvasbacks.
9. Habitat - general: brushy and grassy area-some hills-lake
 specific: small lake with marsh at east end
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain: American Widgeon has white cap, gray head with green stripe on side-rusty sides
11. Distance (how measured?): estimated: 30 to 40 feet of body
12. Optical equipment: 32X Bushnell Scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): getting near sundown but sky was only partly cloudy-the sun was to my left and back
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen several mounted specimens--lots of American Widgeons
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? There were no previous records on the western slope in Colorado
16. Other observers: none
17. Did others agree with your identification? none to agree or disagree
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Kortwright's Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America Birds of North America-Golden Press
I knew immediately what it was when I first saw it, being an adult male.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Dave A. Griffiths
 Signature

Street Address: 17 Solar Drive
 Date Prepared: March 8, 1973 City and State: Pueblo, Colorado

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)