

RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD

NEW STATE RECORD

ACCEPTED

REJECTED 9/2/76

Species: EURASIAN WIGEON
(Vernacular Name)

Anas penelope
(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 3, 1976 Time Bird Seen: 10:30 AM to 2:50 PM

Locality: Barr Lake

Nearest Town: Brighton County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
John Cooper		
Floyd Pendell		

Optical Equipment: 15-60X B&L Zoom telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: sun shining from behind observer part of time, sometimes at right angles

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum estimated distance of 400 ft.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was observed sitting or swimming on the surface of the lake. Sometimes it would sleep, meanwhile slowly drifting with the current. The bird was seen in a large flock of mixed ducks, with Mallards and Pintails predominating, but with smaller numbers of Gadwall, teal, American Wigeon, Shovelers, some diving ducks and Coots. The bird was never seen in flight.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Virtually identical to American Wigeon with respect to size and shape (directly compared on several occasions). Bill pale blue, with black tip. Head and neck deep, rich rufous-chestnut in color (somewhat similar to head color of a male Redhead but richer and brighter). A stripe of buffy-cream started on the forehead and ran up onto the crown, narrowing on the crown. Breast pale pinky-brown. Back and sides white, heavily vermiculated with gray, giving those areas an overall gray coloration. Wing pattern not observed because bird was never seen in flight, but large white shoulder patch was visible when bird was sitting. Tail coverts and tail black.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Medium-sized irrigation reservoir on agricultural plains.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

American Wigeon-easily eliminated due to lack of green and white head, brown back and sides (this bird had reddish head with buffy forehead and crown stripe, gray back and sides).

Redhead-Does not have a buffy stripe on head, breast is black not brown, does not have a white wing patch (on shoulders); is a diving duck with different shape.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen both American Wigeon and Redhead innumerable times. I have never seen a European Wigeon.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Standard field guides were consulted after the observation, they supported the identification.

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

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: April 9, 1976
Street Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80224

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110