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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD  UNUSUAL RECORD 

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: EUROPEAN WIGEON | MARECA PENELOPE  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 4/5/81Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: MONTE VISTA WILDLIFE REFUGE Elevation: ?Nearest town: MONTE VISTA, CO. County: RIO GRANDETime(s) observed: 9:00 AM (APPROX)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 SIGHTINGS - 5 MIN EACHOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
WILLIAM WUERTHELE 525 JACKSON #32 DENVER CO 80206Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)  
\_\_\_\_\_Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
STRONG MORNING SUNSHINE DIRECTLY BEHIND OBSERVERSOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7 X 35 BINOCULARS; BAUSCH & LOMB  
15-60X SCOPEDistance, and how measured: ESTIMATED: 50 FT; 75 YDSIf photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

SAT ON ICE WITH OTHER DUCKS; BIT AMERICAN WIGEON (♂), PADDLED IN WATER. LATER FLEW A SHORT DISTANCE WITH OTHER DUCKS (THESE WERE AMERICAN WIGEONS, PINTAILS, MALLARDS, BLUE-WINGED TEAL).

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

APPEARED TO BE THE SAME SIZE AS THE AMERICAN WIGEON. ITS METALLIC ORANGE HEAD AND CREAM-COLORED HEAD STRIPE ("BALD PATE") WERE QUITE STRIKING IN THE SUNLIGHT. THE BLACK AND WHITE RUMP LOOKED MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE OTHER WIGEONS, BUT THE HEAD WAS OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT. BILL APPEARED GRAYISH. THERE WAS MORE WHITE ON THE SIDES OF THIS BIRD THAN THE OTHER WIGEONS NEARBY, AS WELL.

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Describe the general <sup>SOME</sup> and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: ICE-COVERED PONDS WITH <sup>^</sup> OPEN WATER; DIRT ROADS RAN AMONG PONDS; CATTAILS IN PONDS.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? THIS BIRD SAT NEXT TO AN AMERICAN WIGEON ON THE ICE, ACTUALLY BIT IT, AND SWAM WITH IT AND OTHERS. FEMALE WIGEONS WERE ALSO PRESENT, FROM WHICH IT WAS OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I HAVE SEEN THE AMERICAN WIGEON A NUMBER OF TIMES IN MICHIGAN, PENNSYLVANIA AND S. CAROLINA. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE EUROPEAN.

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

- USED A FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA AT THE TIME OF OBSERVATION. THIS WAS UNMISTAKABLY A EUROPEAN WIGEON. LATER CONFIRMED SIGHTING WITH DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS OF NORTH AMERICA (BELLROSE) ← ROBBINS et al.
- a) at time of observation: NORTH AMERICA AT THE TIME OF OBSERVATION. THIS WAS UNMISTAKABLY A EUROPEAN WIGEON. LATER CONFIRMED SIGHTING WITH DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS OF NORTH AMERICA (BELLROSE)
- b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory ✓  
Date and time report was written: 5/16/81

Reporting observer: SUZANNE M. WUERTHELE Signature: Suzanne M. Wuerthle  
Address: 525 JACKSON #32 DENVER CO 80206

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205