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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: Eurasian Wigeon | Anas penelope  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): January 28, 1986Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: adultLocality: Barr Lake State Park. Elevation: ~4800'Nearest town: Brighton, Colorado County: AdamsTime(s) observed: 13:00Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
NONEOther observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)  
Dave Martin, Wade LeitcherLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
full sun at observers back, heat waves caused some distortionOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 25x spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: ~100 meters; estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/ADescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):  
The bird was swimming with Am. Wigeon, Gadwall, and Northern Shovler.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:  
Shape: similar to nearby american wigeon. Plumage: Red/Rusty head with creamy yellow forehead and forecrown. Gray back and sides. Flanks gray with white or light area near rear of Flanks. Undertail coverts black. Breast buffy-cream color. Green speculum visible. Bill gray with dark tip

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

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Large, mostly Frozen Reservoir (2-3 acres unfrozen), several hundred other ducks and geese present.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

American Wigeon - head gray w/ green eye/ear patch, fore-head and crown white, brownish sides and back, No contrast between sides and breast.

Redhead - forehead does not contrast with rest of head, ~~starch~~<sup>breast</sup> black, more uniform gray body, no contrasting flank patch.

Canvasback - head shape much different, see Redhead

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Eurasian Wigeon - None

American Wigeon and Redhead - numerous observations  
and Canvasback

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

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation  from memory \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time report was written: January 29, 1986 22:44

Reporting observer: Laurens R. Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey

Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave. Longmont, CO 80501

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

Species: Eurasian Wigeon  
(Vernacular name)Anas penelope  
(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.

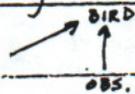
We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future.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

Date (s): 26 January 1986 Time Bird Seen: 9:40 am to 10:30 am.Locality: Barr Lake, Near Brighton Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bausch & Lomb scope 60X; Quasar scope; Nikon 9x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: BreedingLight conditions: Excellent; Full sun from angle: SUN Distance from bird, and how measured: 200-250 yds estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Swam in water of hole in ice. With Am. Wigeons, Gadwall, N. Shovelers, Am Coots, Can Goose. Didn't seem to associate particularly with any of them. Swam next to Am. Wigeons allowing good comparison of shape, form & color.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open Lake, mostly frozen, with hole in ice w/ open water.

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

Dieter Kerr (?) ; Bill Brockner

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. *Medium-sized duck. Same size & shape as Am. Wigeon. Shape of head (round), forehead (steep) and bill (small & projecting straight out from steep forehead) same as in Am. Wigeon. Bill bluish-gray with a black tip. Gray-phase bird. Back & sides medium gray color, very even & smooth, with a horizontal line of white separating back from sides. Posteriorly side became white, then was black under the blackish tail. Breast was tan. Forehead and crown whitish— This was not a golden or yellow color, but was off-white, nearly as white as Am. Wigeon, but less extensive towards occiput. Otherwise entire head was a distinctive rich tawny brown. The head color was suggestive of a Redhead to me, but not so reddish or dark in color. When the bird raised up I could see the white belly.*

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery— i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: *Not heard.*

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

- Am. Wigeon - totally different, with tan sides & back, grey head, & green eye stripe.*  
*Redhead - No way. This bird had whitish streak up forehead, tan breast, white near tail - all lacking in Redhead.*  
*C. Goldeneye - ♀ vaguely similar. Lacks many features though, such as whitish streak on forehead, white near tail, white stripe on side, tan front, blue bill.*

Prior experience with this and similar species: *E. Wigeon was lifes for me.*  
*Other "similar" species I've seen.*

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

NAME (print): Mark Janes

Mailing address: 860 Sharpe Circle Delta, Colo 81416

Signature: Mark Janes

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206

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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: EURASIAN WIGEON | ANAS PENELOPE  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): FEBRUARY 1, 1986Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: MALE Plumage: ADULTLocality: BARR LAKE STATE PARK Elevation: 5000'Nearest town: BRIGHTON County: ADAMSTime(s) observed: 9:15 am → 10:00 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 min

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Cathy Hawkins & Carol Hack

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Mark Janos, Larry Hakey + many others

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Excellent, bright sunshine with sun behind observers.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x Binoculars plus 20-40x telescopeDistance, and how measured: 100 yards, estimated.

If 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):

Active swimming and feeding with other dabbling ducks,  
briefly climbed on ice at one point.

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:

This bird was in full adult, male plumage and was easy to identify;  
I found it on a first sweep of the lake with my telescope. The bird  
was with many other American Wigeon and looked extremely similar in

Description (continued):

size, shape and feeding behavior. However, its crown was a creamy white with the rest of the head a quite rich rufous red. The chest was a pale red quite similar to an American Wigeon, but the ~~sides~~ flanks and upper back were gray, not pale red. The white patch before the tail, and black tail seemed identical to an American Wigeon. The bill was light blue with a dark tip.

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

No sound heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

open water in an artificial reservoir, i.e. Barr Lake.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

American Wigeon - head color, flank color, upper back color. (They were present)

Redhead - Shape, did not dive, crown color, chest color, white patch before tail (also present).

Canvasback - same reasons. Cinnamon Teal - Shape, crown, chest, body and back color (not present).

Common Merganser - Shape, did not dive, bill shape, chest & body color (also present).

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Wide experience with Eurasian Wigeon in Europe, all North American Ducks present, and most Palearctic Ducks.

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: evening 2/1/86

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S. 35th St, Boulder, CO 80303

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