

APPENDIX II

8-88-29

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: EURASIAN WIGEON; ANAS PENELOPE
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 3/14/88 Time Bird Seen: ^{ABOUT} 5:30 to 5:31Locality: MONTE VISTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
MONTE VISTA, CO. 81144, RIO GRANDE CO.
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: SWIFT LYNX SPOTTING SCOPE 20X-60XIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: NONENumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: ADULT* (^{see} description)Light conditions: EVENING SIDE LIGHT (SUNSHINE)Distance from bird, and how measured: EST. 180 YARDSDescribe the bird's overall behavior: ON WATER, HEAD HELD HIGH, SWIMMING, ALERT + READY TO FLY, BIRD MILLED AROUND FOR 1 MIN. THEN RUSHED (DUCK STYLE) AND "BEE-LINED" TOWARD GRAINFIELDS.Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
POND, ABOUT 8 ACRES IN SIZE.Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
CLINT JESKE, RESEARCH BIOLOGIST, MONTE VISTA REFUGE
Saw THIS SPECIES EARLIER

APPENDIX 1I Continued

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, WITH DARK REDDISH BROWN HEAD, BREAST, WITH LIGHT COLORED FOREHEAD. WING (SIDES) APPEARED DARK COLORED WITH A WHITE WING PATCH NOTICEABLY LARGER THAN THAT OF AM. WIGEON. TAIL DARK, BUT UNDERTAIL PATCH WHITE, AND NOTICEABLY LARGER THAN AM. WIGEON. BILL BLUEISH, WITH DARK TIP.

* THE SIDE OF THIS BIRD WAS DARKER COLORED THAN ADULT SHOWN IN THE NAT. GEOGRAPHIC BOOK... SUGGESTING ECLIPSE PLUMAGE?

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NO QUACKS HEARD! WHITE WING PATCH OBSERVED IN FLIGHT TOO.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

AMERICAN WIGEON - NO REDDISH BROWN ON HEAD; HAS DARKER APPEARING EYESTRIPE (BOOK SHOWS GREEN) BUT JUST APPEARS DARK FROM ANY DISTANCE

Prior experience with this and similar species: NONE WITH EURASIAN WIGEON; HAVE SEEN MANY AM. WIGEON.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory X. (4 DAYS LATER)

Name (print) : JOHN J. RAWINSKI

Mailing address: 39 COUNTRY CLUB DR. MONTE VISTA, CO 81144

Signature: John J Rawinski

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205