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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: March 21, 1990

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: gray phase breeding

Locality: 1.5 miles north of the intersection of Tower Road Elevation: 5,300' ±

Nearest town: Denver in a field filled by snow melt water County: Adams

Time(s) observed: 1:15 PM, 2:15 PM, and 4 PM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Total of 7 minutes ±

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Generally east of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal between I-70 and Barr Lake
None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
Seen by many observers thru March 30th

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Good light - sun to SW - bird to the east

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binoculars and 25X telescope

Distance, and how measured: 300 to 600' est.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: No

Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):
Feeding in a flock of 100 American Wigeon and Gadwalls.
The water was probably less than a foot deep in this flooded field so all the birds were just sticking their heads under to feed.

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:
Same general size as the American Wigeons and Gadwalls.
A good-sized, ~~is~~ plump, surface-feeding duck.
The reddish-brown head stood out like a beacon in this flock of ducks. The yellowish cap and ~~the~~ central stripe down the forehead to the bill was much less obvious and seemed to grade into the reddish-brown of the head rather than

Description (continued):

be sharply separate. The gray sides of the Eurasian Wigeon contrasted sharply with the brownish flanks of the American Wigeon.

National Geographic gives the length of Eurasia Wigeon as 20" and American Wigeon 19". I ~~was~~ looked at my book in the field but this size difference was not apparent to me.

The black undertail coverts were prominent and similar to the male American Wigeons.

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

None

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

Ephemeral spring muddy water in a low area in a wheat field that will be dry by June

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

~~The I~~ The only other red-headed ducks are Canvasback, Pochard and Redhead. Each of these has a dark red head with a black chest. The Eurasia Wigeon had a reddish-brown head with a pale pinkish chest. The American Wigeon male has a gray, green, and white head and ~~the~~ female American Wigeon a solid gray head; not a reddish-brown head.

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

This is the third Eurasia Wigeon I have seen in Colorado

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic

b) after observation: National Geographic

March 31, 1990 - added a note about other observers

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 8PM March 27, 1990

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #209 Aurora CO, 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
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