

Species: Eurasian Wigeon
(Vernacular name)

Anas penelope 8-91-18
(Scientific name)

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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): Oct. 29, 1991 Time Bird Seen: 1:50 to 2:10 pm

Locality: Sloan's Lake, Denver, Co.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Rushnell Scope, Rushnell 10x40 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: N/A

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: male Plumage: adult

Light conditions: overcast sky but quite bright. cold (approx 25°), calm.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 100 yds (estimated)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Both birds were resting on the water in a large "raft" of ducks (several hundred) that included at least 14 species including Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, and Redheads. The two Eurasian Wigeon seemed to stay close together and were generally with a group of American Wigeons.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

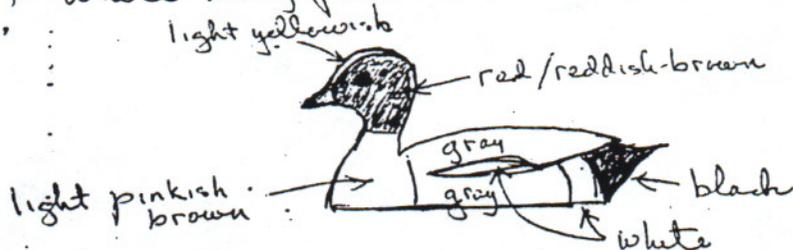
Lake in city park.

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

It is my understanding that these ducks were first identified by Patty Fehelmeier earlier the same day, and had been seen by a few other birders (Joe Roller, Hugh Kingery) before I saw them.

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.

Both wigeon had reddish heads with a broad yellowish stripe running from just above the bill over the forehead and crown. Bill appeared to be grayish. Breast was light pinkish brown. Body and wings were predominantly grayish becoming white then black at the tail. Edges of white wing patches were evident on the folded wings.



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

None

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

American Wigeon: head is grayish with large green patch from eye to back of head; crown stripe is white (or very pale yellowish on some of the birds I saw on 10/29). Body is ~~brownish~~ brownish rather than gray and is basically same color as the breast.

Redhead: head is reddish, but there is no stripe on the forehead and crown; Breast is black, not pinkish brown. Does not have black & white stern.

Green-wing Teal: head is brownish with a prominent green patch running from eye to back of head. No yellowish crown stripe. Has white vertical mark on body.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen male Eurasian Wigeons at least 3 times previously in Colorado, as well as one in New York and several in Alaska.

Have seen thousands of each of the similar species of ducks.

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

NAME (print):

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Signature:

Dick Schettler

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