

CFO-ORAC-FILE# \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPT 6-1

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: Eurasian Wigeon  
(Common Name)*Anas*  
Anus penelope  
(Scientific Name)

Dates: February 11, 1999

Number of birds seen: one (1)

Sex: Male

Plumage: breeding

Locality: Fruitgrowers Reservoir (locally known as Hart's Basin)

Elevation: 1646 meters, 5400 feet

Nearest town: Eckert, CO (Orchard City on maps)

County: Delta

Time observed: 5 P.M.

Duration of observation: half an hour

Other observers with me: None

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None

Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: binoculars=Swift 8X42

spotting scope=Cabela's 16 to 48 zoom

Distance from the bird: less than 50 yards

Describe the bird's behavior: calm, swimming in the company of Redheads, Mallards &amp; Pintails, not feeding.

Describe the bird:

1. About the size of a Mallard, body grayish, head dark-rust colored with a broad, light colored crown.
2. Noted no other facial markings. Crown cream to white, reaching down to the sides of the broad gray bill with a black tip.
3. No marking about the eye, only an area of slightly darker rust color.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: None

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: northeast end of the Reservoir in a small area of open water. Most of the reservoir still frozen. The bird swam from behind a clump of dried, downed Tules. Cold, clear overhead, light breeze but storm's all around and strong winds earlier in the day.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species: The American Wigeon has a broad green band from the eye to the back of the head: this bird lacked that green area. The American Wigeon's crown is shining-white and sharply defined: this bird's crown was more cream-colored and less distinct. It came down to both sides of the bill while the American's comes to more of point at the top of the bill area. The American Wigeon has a grayish head contrasting with the pinkish breast: this bird's head was not gray but rust.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Only experience with the Eurasian Wigeon was as depicted in field guides. I'm familiar with the American since it is regularly at the Basin: observed four (4) the previous evening (2-10-99).

List books if they helped in your identification: National Geographic "Birds of North America", Second edition.

This report was written from notes taken during observation (5 to 5:30 P.M., 2-11-99). When I got home, I looked in every book that I own to assure myself of this identification.

Reporting observer: Evelyn J. Horn

Signature: *Mrs. Evelyn J. Horn**JH*Mrs. Evelyn J. Horn  
P.O. Box 196  
Eckert, CO 81418

970) 835-8391