

2001-109

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

ACCEPTED

R-10 Nov 01

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Eurasian Wigeon

(Scientific Name) *Anas penelope*

Date(s) of occurrence: 11/04/01

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Male

Plumage: Alternate

Exact location: Spinney Mountain Reservoir, Near Center of Lake

County: Park

Nearest town: Hartsel

Elevation: 8686 ft.

Length of observation: 15 Minutes

Time(s) of observation: approx. 12:30-12:45

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Schmoker, Nick Komar, Ann Molison, Andrew Spencer, Joey Kellner

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): None as of 11/05/01

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Full sunlight from our left rear side

Optical equipment used: Kowa 82mm fluorite scope w/ 50X wide angle eyepiece

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 1/2 mile

Was bird(s) photographed? no

If so, have you submitted photos? Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: High Mountain Valley Reservoir

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was in a raft of several thousand diving & dabbling ducks in the middle of the reservoir. During our observation it was swimming through the raft and occasionally preening.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): The bird was obviously a duck and clearly a wigeon, based on its size, bill shape, head shape, body posture, and "bald pate". There were hundreds of American Wigeon in the raft, and the European Wigeon repeatedly passed within inches of many of them for direct comparison. There were also Northern Pintails, Mallards, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, and Common Mergansers in the raft for direct comparison. Simply stated, the Eurasian Wigeon looked like an American Wigeon Drawn with a different color palate- A rosy head, a more buffy bald pate, and gray sides. It also swam around with a bit more upright posture than the American Wigeons around.

Describe bird's call or song: Not heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: American Wigeon: many nearby; all males showed degrees of green around and behind the eyes, a whitish "bald pate", and rufous sides. **This duck was a male wigeon with a rosy head, a creamy/buffy pate, and grayish sides.** Other features such as general size, head and bill shape, etc. matched the American Wigeon. Other ducks with reddish heads were also nearby for comparison- clearly the head color, bill shape, posture, size, and other features didn't match the Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Common Mergansers in the raft.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have a lot of experience with American Wigeon and other commonly occurring North American ducks, but this is my first Eurasian Wigeon.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): The Sibley Guide to Birds; Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America (Belrose); National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: 11/05/01

Reporting observer: William P. Schmoker

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 2227 Canyon Blvd. #106

City: Boulder

State: CO

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