

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

2-1993

Common Name: Eurasian Wigeon Scientific Name: Anas Penelope
 Date: 6 Mar 93 Time: approx 16-11:30 am Length of time observed: 15-30 minutes

Number: 1 Age: N/A Sex: Male

Location: Fish Springs Natl W. Refuge. - "Mallard Unit"

Lat/long: ? Elevation (if known): ?

Distance to bird: Estimate of 200 yards Light conditions: Sunny day with light behind US,

Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Binoculars
 Kowa TSN-2 Scope with zoom eye piece 25-40mm.

Weather: Clear, Cool, Almost no Breeze.

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

appeared to be the same size ^{and shape} as the American Wigeons near it. Rusty colored head with a golden straw colored crown. Rosy colored breast with gray sides - a white horizontal wing stripe, white patch just in front of black tail.

Photograph Attached.

Please Note That The Scope & Binoculars brought this bird in much clearer & closer than the photograph which is taken from a slide, taken ~~from~~ through (effectively) an 800mm lens.

voice or call notes and method of delivery: N/A.

behavior: Floating on water with American wigeons, coots, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Gadwall, Greenwing teal, Redheads, etc.

Habitat: Pond in Marsh in remote west desert of Utah. (Fish Springs) open water. Some ice around the edges.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

American Wigeon - These were nearby & completely different in coloration. The rusty head was nothing at all like the gray green of the Am. Wigeon. Golden Crown also much different than white on Americans. Back 1/2 of side of this duck was lighter in color than Am.

Redhead - Gold Crest, Neck length & Breast color ruled this out.

Green wing or Cinn Teal - This duck was much too large - Pattern of markings totally wrong

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

on 6 Feb 93 I viewed a Eurasian wigeon in Phenix, AZ. That bird was on the bird hotline there. Several friends & I found the bird with several American wigeon. We studied that bird for about 1/2 hour - It was within 20-30 feet. We photographed it & compared it to the American Wigeons, our field guides & our expectations.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

After the bird was identified by David Wheeler, I & others put our scopes on it - I immediately knew it was a Eurasian from my experience 1 month prior - ~~After seeing the bird~~ After seeing the bird, we consulted both Petersons western & the Mall Geo field guides for more verification for those who hadn't seen one before.

Significance of record in this area or the state:
Listed as Occasional "O" on '91 UT. orn. Soc. Bird Records committee checklist.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photographs, tape recording if available)

taken w/ Nikon 6006 camera attached to TSU 2 Scope (800m lens)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting x notes made later x from memory x
Ektachrome 100 Slide Film - reproduced as 8x10 print, enclosed.

Observer: David S. Thompson

Signature:

Address: 1638 Kensington Ave
SLC, UT 84105

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

David Wheeler
Laura Lockhart

Barbara Stubblefield
Dana Green

Alta & Gene Cunliffe.

Date prepared: 31 Mar 93

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120