

8-90-14

NEW STATE RECORD

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Date - OCTOBER 15, 1990

Bird Species - Fulvous Whistling Duck
Dendrocygna bicolor

Location - Avocet Ponds, Weld County. Located on Rd. 59 just 1/2 mile south of RT. 34 near Monfort feed lots. Kersey is ~~the~~ nearest town. It was on the east side pond.

Equipment - 20 Power Bushnell Spotting Scope

Distance - 50-75 yards away

Time of Day - ^{4:40} 5:00 PM. I studied for 20 minutes.

Light Conditions - Sun was shining although ready to go down over the mountains. There was good light to my back as sun was shining over my back onto the bird. No clouds present.

Description - A long necked Duck about Gadwall Size. A very deep tawny-yellowish color on the breast, belly and the head (except for very top which was black). Dark eye, dark bill. It had a dark stripe from the top of the head ~~back~~ or what's known as the hindneck down to the back. It had some white streaking on the neck that gave the bird a light 'collar' look to that area. It also had a whitish undertail Covert and white striping along the flanks that was very striking.

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The back color was a very dark gray-tawny with tawny crescents down the back running across the back.

The general shape of this bird was Goose-Like.

Similar appearing Species - None really, unmistakable.

Experience - Seen small flocks while in Southern Texas in 1987 - total 50 or so birds.

Joe Himmel saw this bird earlier in the day so he found it and I was fortunate enough because I live nearby and was able to drive out to Avocet Ponds and see it before it got dark. What a terrific find!

Jerry Cairo

Jerry Cairo
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October 16, 1990

TO: CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
FROM: JOE HIMMEL, GREELEY, CO. (352-0288)

Fulvous Whistling Duck

A single individual of this species was seen on October 15, 1990, at 4:30 P.M., one-half mile south of the intersection of Colorado Route 34 and Weld County Road 59.

The bird was seen at fairly close range (30 yards) under optimal lighting conditions, with spotting scope at 25 power. The pond on which the bird was swimming is east of County Road 59, so in the late afternoon the sun was behind the viewer and fully on the subject.

The following characteristics were carefully noted during approximately 25 minutes of viewing:

- 1) The size is rather similar to Redhead, but this bird has a distinctly small goose-like profile.
- 2) The very warm, bright buff color of head, neck and breast and flanks.
- 3) A distinctly dark gray bill,
- 4) Somewhat white streaking on the neck gives the appearance of a light collar.
- 5) Very obvious white feathers which appear as strips along the flanks.
- 6) A very dark brown back, with buffy crescents (or stripes) positioned across the back.
- 7) From the center of the head, down along the nape a strip of dark brown color is set off from the rest of the lighter buffy color.
- 8) Strikingly white under-tail coverts are very apparent.

The bird was swimming during my entire sighting. I did not see it flying. Upon returning to Greeley, I called Jerry Cairo, who also saw the bird before dark, and heard it giving its characteristic whistling call. I am urging him to write a documentation also.


Joe Himmel