

rec'd 2/30

CFO-RC FILE #

RESULTS:

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: HARLEQUIN DUCK HISTRIONICUS HISTRIONICUS  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: JAN 18, 2001

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: FEMALE PLUMAGE: ADULT

EXACT LOCATION: ANIMAS RIVER DURANGO

COUNTY: LA PLATA NEAREST TOWN: DURANGO ELEVATION: 6600'

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 25 MINS. TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 9-9:25 AM

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

JOHN VANDERPOEL, SHARON DOWLEY

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

MANY

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

BRIGHT SUNSHINE

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

10X BINOCULARS

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 20-30 FEET

WAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED?            IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS?           

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?           

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

WAS IN THE ROCKY, FAST FLOWING SECTION OF LAS ANIMAS RIVER

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

SWIMMING IN RIVER, REPEATEDLY DIVING UNDER WATER WHEN FEEDING

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 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 OF FIELD NOTES):

SMALLISH DUCK, BUT CLEARLY LARGER THAN NEARBY BUFFLEHEADS.  
PLUMAGE WAS MOSTLY DARK BROWN, EXCEPT FOR THE SIDES OF THE HEAD.  
BRIGHT, SMALL WHITE PATCH BELIND AND BELOW THE EYE. TWO, OFF-WHITE  
PATCHES IN FRONT OF EYE, ONE ABOVE AND ONE BELOW EYE LEVEL. SMALL,  
SHORT, DARK BILL. SHORT, ALL DARK BROWN WINGS. MEDIUM LENGTH,  
BUT POINTED TAIL. LEG COLOR NOT SEEN.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

MOSTLY ALL DARK BROWN PLUMAGE ELIMINATES ALL DUCKS EXCEPT SCOTERS.  
THIS BIRD TOLD FROM SCOTERS BY SMALLER SIZE, SMALLER BILL, TAIL SHAPE  
AND POSITIONING OF WHITE PATCHES ON THE FACE.  
OVERALL PLUMAGE TOO UNIFORMLY DARK BROWN FOR LONG-TAILED DUCKS, OR BUFFLEHEAD.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

HAVE SEEN ALL NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS MANY TIMES.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NONE USED DURING OBSERVATION

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING \_\_\_\_\_ OR AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION,  
OR LATER FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 1/18/01

REPORTING OBSERVER: PETER GENT

SIGNATURE: Peter R. Gent

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

55 SOUTH 35th ST  
BOULDER  
CO 80305

**SEND REPORT TO:**

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
c/o BILL LISOWSKY  
2919 SILVERPLUME DR.  
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526

rec'd 5/4

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) **Harlequin Duck**(Scientific Name) **Histrionicus histrionicus**Date(s) of occurrence: **1/18/01**Number of birds seen: **One**Sex: **Female**Plumage: **Adult**Exact location: **On the Animas River by the parking lot at 29<sup>th</sup> Street.**County: **La Plata**Nearest town: **Durango**

Elevation:

Length of observation: **20 minutes**Time(s) of observation: **About 9 a.m.**Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **None**Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **MOB**Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: **Sunny & clear**Optical equipment used: **Leica 8X42 Binocs & Swarovski Scope with 20-60 zoom.**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):


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: **On the river in the rapids.**Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Bird was continuously diving in the shallow rapids on the river.**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): **Small brownish duck with steep forehead and small bill. White extending from the base of the bill and a round white spot on both cheeks. Pale belly.**

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **Bill wrong for a Scoter. Behavior and habitat typical of Harlequin and not typical of a Scaup.**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen one other female (in Wyoming) before this observation.**List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**This report is from notes made during or after observation or later ☒ from memoryDate of written report: **5/1/01**Reporting observer: **Rachel Kolokoff**Signature: Reporting Observer's Address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**City: **Ft. Collins**State: **CO**Zip: **80524**

**Send report to:**  
**Colorado Birds Record Committee**  
**Tony Leukering**  
**P.O. Box 157**  
**Arvada, CO 80001**



## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

rec'd 26 Nov 02

Species: Harlequin duck Histrionicus histrionicus  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s) of observation: 01/12-17/2001Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Female Plumage: Non-breeding?Exact location: Animas River (between 32nd St. and footbridge (ca. 25th St.))County: La Plata Nearest town: Durango Elevation: ~6500'Length of observation: various Times(s) of observation: mostly 10:00 am - 2:30 pmOther observers who saw the bird(s) with you: S. Allerton, T. Leukering, J. Rolley, B. Percival, M. Janos, D. S. OvermanOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): Probably many; K. StranskyLight conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's; position): variousOptical equipment used: 15X scope, 8X42 binocularsDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): As close as 50'Was bird photographed?: yes If so, have you submitted photographs? AttachedWho took the photographs? Dean F. Hill

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Mostly in moderately flowing water and on rocks

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

Diving and swimming upstream, resting and preening on rock in river

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. Describe other 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 of field notes):

Virtually identical to illustrations in Sibley and Nat. Geo. guidesBlack legs, small bill, white spots behind and in front of eyeLight area over bill

Describe bird's call or song:

N/A

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

♀ surf scoter - larger, longer bill, orange or light legs

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Observed on Pacific coast

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

Sibley Nat Geo guideThis report was made from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ or after \_\_\_\_\_ observation, or later from memory ✓ (and photos)Date of written report: 01/18/2001Reporting observer: Dean & Mona Hill Signature: Dean Hill Mona Hill 1/22/02Observer's address: 803 East 31st St. Durango, CO 81301

Send report to: Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

20432 Road 21 Cortez CO 81321

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X: **2001-01**

### RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): <b>HARLEQUIN DUCK</b>		(Scientific Name) <b>Histrionicus histrionicus</b>
Date(s) of occurrence: <b>January 14, 2001</b>		
Number of birds seen: <b>One</b>	Sex: <b>Female</b>	Plumage: <b>Adult</b>
Exact Location: <b>Animas River, Durango</b>		
County: <b>La Plata</b>	Nearest town: <b>Durango</b>	Elevation: <b>Roughly 6500 feet msl</b>
Length of observation: <b>Approximately 20 minutes</b>		Time(s) of observation: <b>Roughly 1:00 PM MST</b>
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: <b>Joanne Stewart</b>		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): <b>Most Colorado birders</b>		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): <b>Adequate. The bird was mostly observed into the sun but the distance was close.</b>		
Optical equipment used: <b>7x42 Zeiss Bins</b>		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): <b>Approximately 70 feet.</b>		
Was bird(s) photographed? <b>Yes (video and SLR with 500mm lens)</b>	If so, have you submitted photos? <b>Yes</b>	
Who took the photographs? <b>Myself</b>		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: <b>River.</b>		

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Bird observed swimming in small rapids and also preening on rock.**

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):

**Joanne Stewart and I arrived at the city park in Durango (along the Animas River) in early afternoon. After roughly an hour of intensive searching of a roughly 0.5 mile section of river, I observed the female Harlequin Duck preening on a rock in the middle of the river. The bird was distinctly smaller than nearby Mallards and appeared slightly smaller than Common Goldeneye and was stocky and short-necked. Overall coloration was a dull brown (mud-brown). The head was large and round with a short bill. This bill was deepest on the upper mandible, was slightly concave, and gray. The prominent feature of the brown head was a whitish round spot located posterior to, and slightly ventral to, the dark eye. A second, large white spot was present on lower lores and the anterior portion of the lower cheek and extended dorsally to just below the eye. A third, smaller, white facial spot was present on the upper lores. Whitish smudging partially joined this latter spot with the was also evident along the lower forehead, lores, and anterior portion of the cheek. The remainder of the body was a muddy-brown except for a whitish belly, observable when the bird was preening on the rock.**

**After viewing the bird for a few minutes, the duck entered the river where it dove occasionally. When swimming, the head was held high and slightly forward of the body. The tail was relatively long for a duck and was held cocked-up.**





Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

*The solid brown coloration (without any vermiculations), diving behavior, and short, conical bill eliminates most other waterfowl except a few of the diving ducks. With their brown plumage and white facial markings, female scoters represent the closest-appearing waterfowl to that of a Harlequin Duck. Female White-winged Scoter was eliminated because of that species' larger, sloped head, long, sloping bill, white secondaries, larger, white auricular spot and more defined white loreal spot, and larger overall size. Female and 1<sup>st</sup>-winter Surf Scoters have a much larger bill than Harlequin, have a more blocky head, a larger white auricular spot, and more extensive white, anterior facial pattern. Female Black Scoters differ even more in having a large, complete whitish-gay facial patch (i.e., lacking separate auricular and loreal spots). Female scaup differ in bill shape, body shape, and facial pattern.*

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed about 30 other birds along the East Coast, Minnesota, Wyoming, and Alaska.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

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

Date of written report: **9/11/01**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:  
Colorado Birds Record Committee  
c/o Tony Leukering  
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**

2001-01

Harlequin Duck, 1/20/01, La Plata County, Joey Kellner

