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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: American Black Duck | Anas rubripes  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): November 29, 1986/5Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: adultLocality: Pelican Ponds, near Jackson Reservoir Elevation: ~4350'Nearest town: Goodrich, Colorado County: MorganTime(s) observed: ~3:15Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 3 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
Wade Leither 14079 E. Stanford Cr. 107 Aurora, CO, 80015 (699-7281)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
overcast, but bright, good condition, little glareOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 20x Scope, 7x50 BinocsDistance, and how measured: ~50 metersIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/ADescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):  
Observed with Mallard, feeding in small irrigation ditch. Alert immediately when we stopped. Flew (with Mallard) when an approach was made.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Bird shaped very similar to nearby Mallard except forehead seemed flatter with respect to top of upper mandible. Size, same or nearly same as Mallard. Body plumage: black brown, much darker than female Mallard; head gray, contrasting wing body. Bill entirely yellow. In flight, underwings white, strongly contrasting with under body (belly and rest of under body dark). Speculum appeared all dark. Did not see any white in the tail when in flight.

## Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Ditch (shallow) within agriculture areas near small ponds and one large reservoir.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Female mallard, shows white on speculum and tail, bill is not all yellow, body plumage too dark. Mallard show light on upperparts in flight. Female mallard lacks contrast between body and head.

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

Black Ducks - seen hundreds (and studied them) on coast of North Carolina.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide, Wade Leitcher

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after <sup>immediately</sup> observation ☒ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: 1-21-86 8:40 am.

Reporting observer: Laurens R. Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey  
Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave. Longmont, CO 80501 (530,628)

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205