

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD X

ACCEPTED 6-1

Rec'd 12.98

Species: American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)**Date:** 25 January 1998 **Number seen:** one**Sex:** male**Plumage:** Alternate**Locality:** Neenoshe Reservoir**Elevation:** 1200 m**Nearest town:** Lamar**County:** Kiowa**Time observed:** about 3 PM MST**Duration of observation:** about 10 minutes

Description: I found a large, dark dabbling duck among Mallards that I immediately identified as a male Am. Black Duck. Its head was paler than its body, which was very dark. The head was similarly-shaped to that of the nearby male Mallards, but was brownish-gray with a darker crown and a dark eyeline. The eyes were dark and the bill was fairly bright yellow. There was an abrupt transition in color from the neck to the rest of the body, with the rest of the body and the tail being a dark, unpatterned brown. The wings were about the same color as the body. The bird flew at one point and I noted dark wings above with a purplish speculum with no white borders. The underwings were white; the legs were bright orangish-red. There was no trace of green in the head, nor any other expressions of Mallard genes (the uppertail coverts were not curly and there was no white in the body plumage).

Similar species eliminated by description: All forms of Mallard ruled out by plumage pattern, speculum color, and leg color. Mottled Duck eliminated by unpatterned underparts and leg color. Gadwall ruled out by plumage pattern, size, speculum color, and bill color.

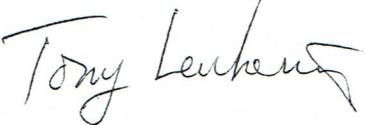
What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 10s of 1000s of Mallards and Am. Black Ducks, 100s of Mottled Ducks, and 1000s of Gadwalls. No other ducks are reasonably similar in size and plumage pattern.

Light conditions: sun behind me**Optical equipment used:** 30x Kowa**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated distance of at least 150 meters**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** none**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** N/A

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

a) at time of observation: none b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 29 December 1998 from notes written at the time of observation