

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-23

rec'd 3-9-98 ✓

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

X

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

Species: AMERICAN BLACK DUCK
(Vernacular Name)Anas rubripes
(Scientific Name)

Date(s): January 25, 1998 (and January 31, 1998)

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Plumage: Adult

Locality: Bittersweet Park

Elevation: est. 4800 ft.

Nearest town: Greeley

County: Weld

Time(s) observed: 1/25/98 early afternoon; 1/31/98 about 8:00 am

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 min each day

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

1/31/98 Alan DuPuis, 1708 Springfield Dr., Fort Collins CO 80521, 970-407-0428

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

Many others (e.g. Rachel Kolokoff, 1721 Cottonwood Point Dr., Fort Collins 80524,

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light:)

Good back light (sun behind me) 1/25/98; Snow shower 1/31/98.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types):

Nikon Kestrel binoculars (8x40)

Distance, and how measured:

Approximately 50-100 feet away, estimated.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

N.A.

Who else photographed the bird?

?

Describe the birds behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Floating and paddling on pond water - never dove, suggestive of dabbling duck (1/25/98). Also seen feeding on lawn grass, and flying (1/31/98), whence purple speculum (without obvious white borders) was visible, and ability to fly confirmed (ruling out a wing-clipped escapee or releasee).

Skittish when approached, not tame.

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 observed in field: *Size and shape of accompanying Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos), with dark (almost black) body feathers on breast, belly, back, wings and tail, all fringed with brown. Neck and head grayish with dark eye line. Bill greenish, with gray center.*

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

N.A.

While standing on ice, belly and legs observed. Legs orange, and unbanded, suggesting non-domestic status.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Suburban city park pond, partially frozen, with nearby cattails.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

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

Bred in Eastern Mass. for over 20 years, where Black Ducks are abundant.

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

a) at time of observation: *None*

b) after observation: *Peterson Western Birds - I returned to further evaluate bill color for sex determination*

This report was written from reports made during after observation from memory

Date and time report was written: *March 5, 1998, 3:30 pm*

Reporting observer: *Nicholas Komar*

Signature:

Nicholas Komar

Address:

*1507 Wildwood Ct.
Fort Collins CO 80521*

Tel: 970-416-7527

Return to:

Mark Janos

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

10 Sedum Ct.

Pueblo, Colorado 81001

CFO-RC FILE #: 1998-23
✓ rec'd 3-98

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**
RESULTS: _____

SPECIES: ☒ American Black Duck
(COMMON NAME)

Anas rubripes
(SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: at least Jan. 25 & 26, 1998 DATE OF THIS OBSERVATION: Jan. 26 1998

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: F PLUMAGE: adult

EXACT LOCATION: Bittersweet Park lake

COUNTY: Weld

NEAREST TOWN: Greeley

ELEVATION:

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: >1hour

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 10:15 - 11:25 am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW AND INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):

Nick Komar, Ft. Collins, CO (originally found/identified bird on 1/25/98)

Warren Finch, Lakewood, CO (1/26)

Joe Himmel, Greeley, CO (1/26)

Rachel Kolokoff, Ft. Collins, CO (1/26)

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

Weather was clear with bright sunlight; sun was behind the observer.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Bushnell 10x binoculars; Bushnell Spacemaster scope

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): approx. 200 ft.

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? Don't know IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS?
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

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

Urban; Greeley city park lake. Lake was frozen except for some open water in the southwest corner. This duck was observed in the southwest corner of the lake in the open water and on the nearby ice.

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

The duck was observed sitting, standing and walking on the ice, and swimming in the open water.
None of the observed behavior was useful in identifying the bird.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD(S) [INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE; PLUMAGE DETAILS INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL; AND COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S)].

This was a Mallard-size duck (many Mallards, both M and F, nearby for direct comparison). When first located, it was sitting on the ice facing me with its bill tucked in. Only clue that it was different was that its breast looked darker than nearby female Mallards. After a few minutes, the bird stood up revealing dull orangy legs and a dull olive-green bill. The bill had a blackish nail and some grayish mottling toward the base. The overall body color was a medium chocolate brown (significantly darker than nearby female Mallards, but not as "black" as expected for a male Am. Black Duck). Body and upper wing feathers had solidly dark interiors with narrow lighter brown margins. Neck and sides of head were a lighter grayish-brown contrasting with the darker brown body. Crown of head was darker brown, and there was a dark brown "eyeline" that appeared to start at the base of the bill and extended through and behind the eye. Eye color was brown. The upper surface of the wings was the same medium chocolate brown as the body. The speculum appeared to be iridescent bluish or blue-violet with a black margin at

the rear edge, but no apparent white margins (white margins were very apparent on the female Mallard speculums). The underwings appeared very white on the 2 occasions I saw the bird raise its wings. The tail appeared to be entirely dark brown. The duck was unbanded, and the hallux (hind toe) was present on both legs; the bird did not appear to be particularly "tame".

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW THEY WERE ELIMINATED:

Many female "Anas" ducks (Mallard, Mottled Duck, Gadwall, etc.) are superficially similar to female Am. Black Duck, but do not have the solid dark brown feathering with only narrow light brown margins on the feathers. The combination of body feather color, speculum color and lack of white borders, and bill and leg color eliminate similar species.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

American Black Duck: Only previous experience with this species in Colorado was of an escaped/released male in Ft. Collins in 1991. This bird was missing the hind toes on both legs, and was very tame. I have seen wild Black Ducks (both male & female) in CT, MD, MN, NY, VA, and Quebec.

Similar Species: I have seen thousands of all of the expected similar species found regularly in Colorado.

I have seen "Mexican" Mallards on several occasions in southeastern Arizona

I have seen one male Mallard x Black Duck hybrid in Colorado

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

NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd ed.

'Waterfowl' by S. Madge and H. Burn, 1988

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER X OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY _____

DATE OF THIS WRITTEN REPORT: 2/2/98

REPORTING OBSERVER: Dick Schottler
25 S. Indiana Place
Golden, CO 80401

SIGNATURE: 

DOCUMENTATION FORM

rec'd 8-9-98

Species: American Black Duck

Number: 1 female

Location: Bittersweet P., Greeley, CO

Habitat: small lake

Date: 27 January 1998

Time: 7:05-7:54 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): David C. Ely, m.ob.

Description of bird(s): When we arrived, we soon spotted a darker duck with the Mallards. The plumage was very dark black/brown with a noticeably paler head. The bill was dull olive. The head was pale except for a darker crown and eyeline. The speculum was deep purple. A couple of times, I thought there was a very faint white line along the posterior edge of the speculum. The legs and feet were dull orange. I noted that the hallux was intact on both legs. The rectrices were entirely dark-colored and showed no white. The bird was much warier than the Mallards and always remained on the opposite side of the pond from us. I concluded the bird was a female on the basis of bill color. The wariness and lack of any obvious sign of recent captivity (e.g., no leg bands, intact hallux) indicate to me that the bird was probably of wild origin.

Similar species and how eliminated: The only real possibilities are Mottled Duck and an unusually dark Mallard. The darker plumage and purple speculum eliminate Mottled Duck. The combination of bill color, darker plumage, speculum color, and dark rectrices eliminates the possibility of a dark female Mallard.

Previous experience with species: I have considerable experience with American Black Ducks from the Atlantic Coast (Massachusetts, North Carolina) and in the Midwest (Iowa). I have also banded thousands of Mallards (mostly in southeastern Alberta) and have handled several Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with clear skies. Estimated viewing distance was no more than 40m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 27 January 1998

SPECIES: AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

(Vernacular Name)

ANAS RUBRIPES

(Scientific Name)

1998-23

10/9-25-98

DATE(S): 1-29-98

TIME OF OBSERVATION: 1:10

TO 1:45

EXACT LOCATION: BITTERSWEET PARK ALONG 35TH

NEAREST TOWN: GREELEY

COUNTY: WELD

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

STEVE DINSMORE, DAVE ELY, DICK SCHOTTLER, DAVE LEATHERMAN

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: BAUSCH & LOMB CUSTOM 8x40 BINOCULARS

WEATHER CONDITIONS: MOSTLY SUNNY; HIGH CLOUDS

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: BIRD IN FRONT, SUN BEHIND AND TO RIGHT

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: APPROXIMATED AT 80 FEET

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: JUVENILE

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE BIRD WAS RESTING WITH ITS BILL BURIED IN THE BACK FEATHERS WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED. AFTERWARDS IT SAT UP AND WALKED AROUND THE RESTING MALLARDS TO REACH AN AREA OF OPEN WATER. THE BIRD SEEMED QUITE WARY, NOT ALLOWING CLOSE APPROACH (APPROX 50-60 FEET MINIMUM) BY PEOPLE; IT ALSO SEEMED TO SHY AWAY FROM INDIVIDUAL MALLARDS AS IT WALKED AND SWAM AMONG THEM ESPECIALLY MALES.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):

DARK FOREHEAD, NECK LIGHTER BROWN WITH SOME FINE DARKER BROWN VERTICAL STREAKING

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): DARK EYE WITH DARKISH LINE RUNNING THROUGH EYE FROM LORES TO SIDE OF NECK; LINE DARKER THAN LOWER FACE

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): BILL DARKISH OLIVE WITH DARK GRAY/BLACKISH SMUGGING ON TOP

LEGS & FEET: ORANGISH-RED WITH BOTH HALLUCES INTACT

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): DARK BROWN WITH LIGHTER BROWN EDGES TO INDIVIDUAL FEATHERS; MUCH DARKER THAN THE NORMAL HEN MALLARD

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): SAME DARK BROWN COLOR AS BACK WITH MORE - NOTICEABLE LIGHT EDGINGS TO INDIVIDUAL FEATHERS

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):
ALL TAIL FEATHER SEEMED TO BE SAME DARK COLOR AS BACK; NO
EVIDENCE OF WHITE IN THE TAIL; UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE SAME
DARK COLOR AS UNDERPARTS GIVING A UNIFORM COLOR FROM BREAST TO TAIL
WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): THE ONE TIME THAT IF FLEW,
THE WINGS APPEARED AS DARK AS THE BACK; THE SPECULUM APPEARED
PURPLISH WITH NO WHITE EDGING; THE BORDER TO THE SPECULUM APPEARED
DARKER THAN THE WING; UNDERWING APPEARED PURE WHITE W/DARK PRIMARIES
VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):
SIMILAR CALLS TO MALLARD THOUGH NOT AS LOUD OR FORCEFUL

HABITAT: POND AREA WITH ENTRANCE STREAM AND SMALL AMOUNT
OF CATTAILS

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:
THE LACK OF WHITE IN THE TAIL AND WING WOULD ELIMINATE IT FROM
BEING A DARK HEN MALLARD; THE SPECULUM COLOR ELIMINATES
MOTTLED DUCK AND ALL OTHER PUDDLE DUCKS AND ALL DIVING DUCKS; THE
DARKNESS OF THE BODY AND LACK OF WHITE ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY
OF A HYBRID DUCK;

J. W. Mammoser
312 Duane Dr.
Ft. Collins, Colo
80525

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:
I HAVE LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH BLACK DUCKS IN WISCONSIN;
I HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH MALLARDS AND OTHER DUCKS.
ALL FEATHERS APPEARED TO BE SHARP AND INTACT, UNLIKE
FEATHER EDGES FROM A CAPTIVE BIRD; THIS BIRD ALSO
APPEARS TO ME TO BE A JUVENILE BIRD.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC "FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA";
MADGE E. BURNS "WATERFOWL - AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE";
AUDUBON SOCIETY "A MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING"

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; ☐ FROM MEMORY

NAME: JOSEPH MAMMOSER SIGNATURE: *Joseph Mammoser* DATE: 2-2-98

CFO-RC FILE #: 1998-23

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS

recd 2-4-98 ✓

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: AMERICAN BLACK DUCK ANAS RUBRIPES
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: JANUARY 31st 1998

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

EXACT LOCATION: BITTERSWEET PARK, GREELEY

COUNTY: WELD NEAREST TOWN: Greeley ELEVATION: 4500'

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 30 MINS TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 11:15 - 11:45 am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S) :

BILL MAYNARD, MOB

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

LIGHT SNOW THAT STOPPED - HEAVY OVERCAST SKIES.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: 10 x 40 BINOCULARS x 50 TELESCOPE

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 50 YDS

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: _____ IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

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

OPEN WATER IN A CITY PARK LAKE

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

SLEEPING WITH HEAD TUCKED, SWIMMING AND FLAPPED WINGS ONCE.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE 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) :

DABBING DUCK WHICH WAS THE SAME SIZE AS THE MALLARDS WITH WHICH IT ASSOCIATED. MOST OF BODY VERY DARK - APPEARED BLACK IN POOR LIGHT. UPPER NECK AND HEAD A MUCH LIGHTER BROWN. UNIFORM COLORED DULL GREEN BILL. BLACK EYE. FLAPPED WINGS ONCE TO SHOW PURPLE SPECULUM AND VERY LIGHT TO WHITE WING LININGS. LEGS AND FEET NOT SEEN, SO NOT CHECKED FOR BANDS.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM :

FEMALE MALLARD - BODY COLOR, WING LINING COLOR.
MOTTLED DUCK - BODY COLOR, SPECULUM COLOR.
SPOT-BILLED DUCK - NOT BICOLORED BILL, LOWER NECK COLOR.

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

SEEN BLACK DUCK SEVERAL TIMES - ONCE BEFORE IN COLORADO.

HAVE SEEN THE OTHER DUCKS ZILLIONS OF TIMES.

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE

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

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT : 1/31/98

REPORTING OBSERVER : PETER R. GENT SIGNATURE : Peter R. Gent

SEND REPORT TO : MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

ANAS

RUBRIPES

red 3-58

DATE OF OBSERVATION	TIME OF OBSERVATION	NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN	SEX	PLUMAGE
2-1-98	0800 TO 0830	ONE	Female	BASIC
	TO			
	TO			

LOCALITY: BITTERSWEET PARK Greeley

ELEVATION: 4660 COUNTY: Weld

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD (Names, Addresses, Telephone Number)

DAVE QUESENBERRY 6254 S EMIRA CIR Englewood Co 80111 3037967603

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Zeiss 10x40 KOWA TSN-4 20x60

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clear, 20° - Light North Wind

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: SUN AT OBSERVER'S BACK

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 50 yds GUESS

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: The BIRD WAS seen feeding and sunning on hillside on the SW corner of LAKE AT BITTERSWEET PARK Among MANY MALLARDS. Then flushed by jigger to nearby WATER. This bird seemed to be ALONE.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EMPHASIS ON KEY FIELD MARKS): Relative size and shape; plumage and color pattern of head, upperparts and underparts; shape and color of bill, wings, tail, feet and legs; eye color.

The bird was approx same size as ♀ MALLARDS

Bill - ABOUT same size of head Round at Tip. General olive green-yellow overall with black tip and black patch midway on length on top of upper bill.

HEAD - NECK - med Light brown (Lighter than body) finely streaked - Pter supercillum AND DARKER EYE STRIPE blending toward back of HEAD

Body - BACK, FLANKS, BREAST TAIL - DARK chocolate brown with individual feathers tipped with TAN (forming crests)

Legs - orange → darker than ♀ MALLARDS but NOT AS brilliant as ♂ mallard

Wings - under wing coverts - Light - Flight Feathers DARK
speculum ~ purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued):

HABITAT: URBAN CATTAIL MARSH & LAKE

VOCALIZATION (call/song; how delivered-perched, in flight; frequency; duration):

NONE

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

♀ mallard - orange / black bill

- speculum blue band with white on ~~ext~~ either end
- Tan Body color

Hybrids - Always difficult.

- This bird had no characters of mallard duck including head characters, speculum etc.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I have identified many Black Ducks growing up in
Minnesota

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

NA BIRDS NAT GEO 2nd

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY X

NAME: RIC OLSEN SIGNATURE: ROL DATE: 3-10-98

9450 W Heather Dr
St. Louis, MO 63124 314-990-7753