

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Brant ; Branta bernicla
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 10 November 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Locality : Barr Lake
Barr Lake, Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Kowa TSN-4 20-60x ; Nikon 9x30 binos

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 4 Sex: — Plumage: adult

Light conditions: Excellent, bright light at back & side

Distance from bird, and how measured: ≥ 100 yds estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

4 birds swam together. Came up to weedy shore then walked off into the weeds, grazing together with short necks down.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains Reservoir

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. ~~Seemed to be pale eastern race, Wrota.~~ Very small goose, just slightly larger than Mallards, smaller than nearby Canada Geese. Short-necked, stubby dark geese (overall impression). Black head, neck brown, with pale dirty whitish undersides (seen when they came on shore). Black legs & feet. Small, stubby black bill. Head round, robust-looking. Very small white "scribbles" on sides of neck, below round gould.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

White-fronted Goose (& similar spp.) lack all black bill, black head & neck.
Ross Goose (all phases) has white head.
Can. Goose has white cheek patch, longer head & bill.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen Brant (*marginatus*) on the west coast a few times

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory .

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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