

17 December 1999

Rec'd 1/6/00 w/resp
(2 photos)

ACCEPT 7-0

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+ Photographed

BRANT (*BRANTA BERNICLA*)

The following account details a 17 November 1999 observation of an adult Brant of the Pacific race (*B.b. nigricans*) seen at Utah Park, in the City of Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado.

Having been notified of the presence of the bird from COBIRDS, I arrived at the east side of the pond at Utah Park about 1:00 pm MST. I immediately found the Black Brant swimming along the western edge of the pond at a distance of roughly 200 feet. Conditions were favorable with clear skies and the sun slightly to the south but generally overhead.

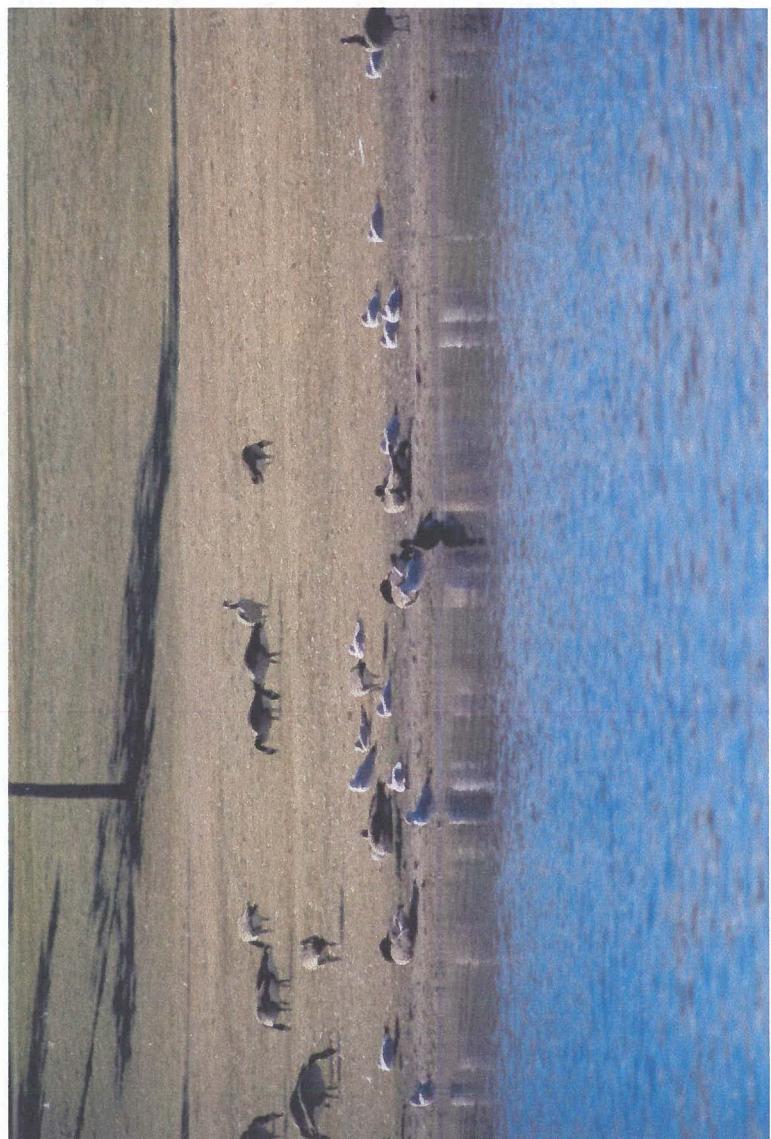
The bird was observed in the company of numerous Canada Geese, and some American Wigeon and Mallards.

In size, the Brant was noticeably smaller (1/3rd) than adjacent Canada Geese. Overall impressions were of a very stocky, short-necked, stub-nosed, dark goose. The head, neck and upper breast were a dark black except for a white stripe/barring pattern on the throat and upper neck. Mantle and upper-wing coloration was a dark brown. The middle and lower breast was dark brown which separates the western race from the more eastern American race (*hrota*); *hrota* birds typically have a whitish breast and belly with numerous brown striations. The flanks of the subject bird did appear noticeably lighter (almost whitish) from that of the dark brown belly and breast. Remiges appeared black and the tail and upper-tail coverts were white.

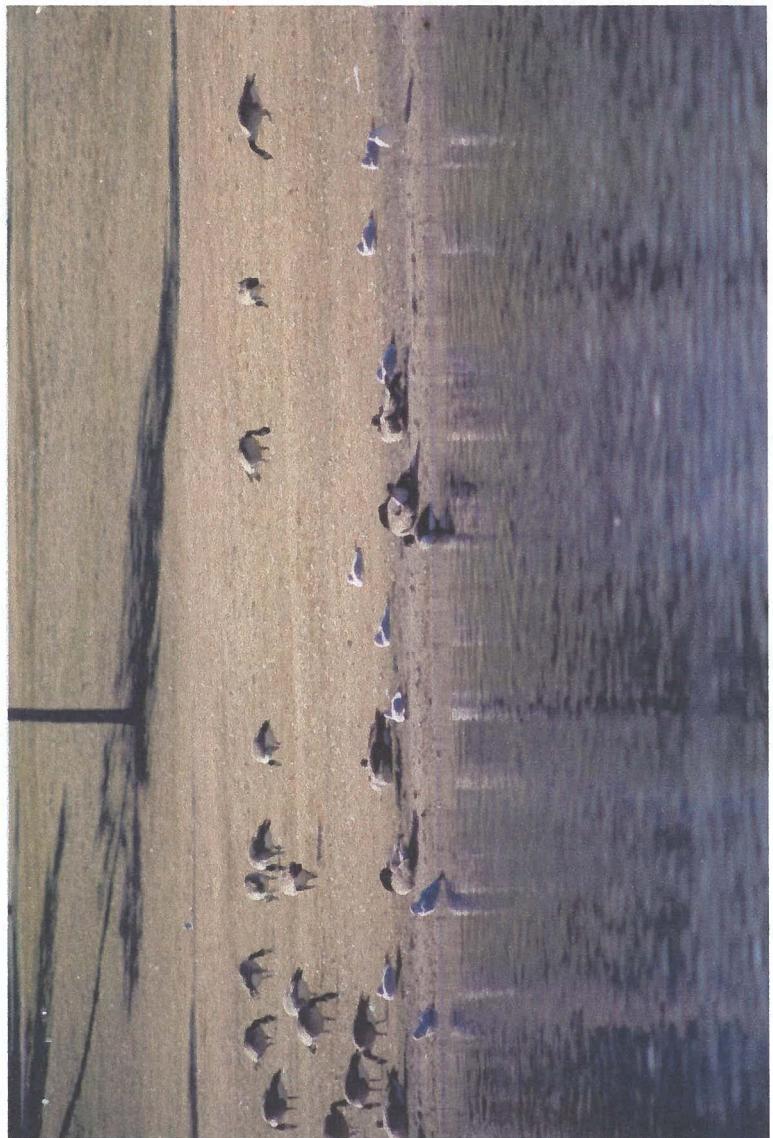
It appeared that the bird was an adult due to the uniform dark-brown mantle and wing coverts and lack of light feather edging.

Except for Canada Goose, no other goose-like bird is similar in appearance to that of a Brant. In general, Canada Geese are larger, possess a white chin-strap and face mark, and have a lighter breast.

Total observations lasted only about 15 minutes due to other commitments. During the observation, however, two photographs were taken of the bird as it stood along the edge of the water in close proximity to Canada Geese (see attached photo documentation).



Brant
1999-20 Utah Park, Aurora, Co
17 Nov 1999
Larry Senn



Brant (*Branta bernicla hirsute*)
Utah Park, Aurora, Co
17 Nov 1999

1999-20

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

SPECIES: BLACK BRANT BRANTA FERDINANDI NIGRICANS
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: 20 NOVEMBER 1999NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: UNKNOWN PLUMAGE: ADULTEXACT LOCATION: UTAH PARK, AURORACOUNTY: ADAMS NEAREST TOWN: AURORA ELEVATION: 5000'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1 HOUR TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 9 am - 11 am

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

JOHN VANDER POEL, B & HAHN, SITARON DUDLEY, JOEY KELLOVER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

PAUL BRIDGES, BRANDON FERDINAND, ETC

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

PARTLY CLOUDY, AND SUNSHINE

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

10x BINOCULARS, 20-60x TELESCOPEDISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 100 mWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NO

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

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

UTAH PARK HAS AREAS OF GRASS AND A SMALL POND

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

THE BIRD GRAZED ON THE GRASSY AREAS FOR THE WHOLE 2 HOURS.

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):

THE BIRD WAS A SMALL GOOSE, MUCH SMALLER THAN MOST OF THE CANADA GEESE IT WAS WITH, BUT ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE SMALLEST CANADA GEESE PRESENT. JET BLACK HEAD AND NECK, EXCEPT FOR THE WHITE CHEVRON PATTERNS ON THE UPPER NECK, WHICH MET IN THE FRONT. BACK AND BELLY WERE ALSO BLACK, WITH THE SIDES OFF WHITE WITH A DARKER LINED PATTERN. THE UNDTAIL AND MDT OF THE UPPER TAIL WERE WHITE, TAIL WAS BLACK TIPPED. THE BILL AND LEGS WERE BLACK.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

CANADA GEESE - NECK PATTERN DIFFERENT, BODY COLOR DIFFERENT.

BARNACLE GEESE - ITEM PATTERN DIFFERENT, BODY COLOR DIFFERENT.

BLUE GOOSE - HEAD, NECK, BILL AND LEG COLOR DIFFERENT.

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

HAVE SEEN BANDS MANY TIMES ON THE WEST AND EAST COASTS, AND IN EUROPE.

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

NOVE AT TIME OF OBSERVATION.

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

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 11/25/99

REPORTING OBSERVER: PETER R. CANT

OBSERVER ADDRESS: 55 S 35th St,

Boulder

CO 80303

SIGNATURE: Peter R. Cant

SEND REPORT TO:

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

c/o BILL LISOWSKY

2919 SILVERPLUME DR.

FT. COLLINS, CO 80526