

1999 - 20

17 December 1999

Red 1/4/00 wye  
(2 photos)

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ACCEPT 7-0

+ 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).



1999-20 Brant  
Utah Park, Aurora, Co  
17 Nov 1999  
Laura Samra



Brant (*Branta higrans*)

1999-20

Utah Park, Averara, Co

17 Nov 1999



1999-20

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

***Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!***Rcd 3/20/00  
(Video)

CFO-RC FILE X:

**RESULTS:**

Species:(Common Name)Brant

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: 11/18/99

Number of birds seen: one

Sex:

Plumage:

Exact location: Utah City Park, Aurora

County:

Nearest town:

Elevation:

Length of observation: see video

Time(s) of observation:

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: mob

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): mob

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position:

Optical equipment used: Canon Vistura Digital Video Camcorder 16X optical – 64X digital zoom

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):

Was bird(s) photographed?

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

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 important 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 field notes):

Please see video

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

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

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: 3/16/00

Reporting observer: Rachel Kolokoff

Signature: Rachel Kolokoff

Reporting Observer's Address: 1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.

City: Ft. Collins

State: CO

Zip: 80524

Send report to:  
**Colorado Birds Record Committee**  
 c/o Bill Lisowsky  
 2919 Silverplume Dr.  
 Ft. Collins, Co. 80526

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

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

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

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

JOHN VANDERPEEL, B B HAHN, SIBARON DUDLEY, JOEY KELLNER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

PAN BRIDGES, BRANDON PERCIVAL, 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? IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS?WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? AT THE OBSERVATION

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 GEESE, MUCH SMALLER THAN MOST OF THE CANADA GEESE IT WAS WITH, BUT ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE SMALLEST CANADA GEESE PRESENT. SET 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 UNDERTAIL AND MOST 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.  
BARNTALE GEESE - HEAD PATTERN DIFFERENT, BODY COLOR DIFFERENT.  
BLUE GEESE - HEAD, NECK, BILL AND LEG COLOR DIFFERENT.

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

HAVE SEEN BRANDT 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):

NONE 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. GENT  
OBSERVER ADDRESS: 55 S 35th St,

SIGNATURE: Peter R. Gent

BOULDER  
CO 80303

**SEND REPORT TO:**  
COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
c/o BILL LISOWSKY  
2919 SILVERPLUME DR.  
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526