

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 2002-16

(A)

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_ UNUSUAL RECORD X

rec'd 2/5/02

**Species:** Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

**Date:** 30 Nov 2001

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** unknown

**Plumage:** adult

**Locality:** Wood's Lake

**Elevation:** ~4650 feet

**Nearest town:** Eaton

**County:** Weld

**Time observed:** early afternoon

**Duration of observation:** approx. 30 minutes

**Description:**

Small, dark goose. I first saw this bird in the open as it was walking with Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) on the shore. It was similar in size or just slighter smaller than Lesser Canada Geese (*B. c. parvipes*) that were walking along with it. I was able to observe it for about 5-10 minutes before losing it in the mass (>10,000) of Canada Geese that were there. During that time I took these notes: White rump (white extending from rump down along the flanks to the vent and undertail areas); black rectrices with white tips. The flight feathers were dark brown to blackish which contrasted with the chocolate brown upperparts. There were four white lines formed by white tips on the upper covert feathers. Bill was entirely black. Head and neck were the same color as the flight feathers (dark brown/blackish), being darker than the rest of the body, and this darker coloration extended from the neck in a diffuse line to the belly. The legs and eyes were dark; it had webbed feet. There was a white, with small blackish striations, triangular-shaped patch on either side of the neck, but not obviously contrasting with the darker neck feathers. It appeared more reduced than some Black Brant that I have seen, but the remaining body feather coloration was consistent with Black Brant. The sides were white mottled with brown with a lot of brown showing just below the wings.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** None heard.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen hundreds of Black Brant while living in northern California.

**Light conditions:** overcast skies with sun overhead and to the right of me and the bird.

**Optical equipment used:** Kowa 77mm scope with 20x60 eyepiece

**Distance, and how estimated:** approximately 100-120 meters

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** none

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** Bryan Guarante

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** poor photos shot with Canon Elan II through a scope adapter with Sensia 200 slide film.

**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:** Doug Faulkner

**Signature:** 

**Address:** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

**Date report was written:** 3 February 2002 from notes taken during time of observation.