

Reg - yes
rec'd 1/19

2001-2

Species:

Brant (Black)

(Common Name)

Branta bernicla nigricans

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: 1/15/2001

Number of birds seen: one

Sex:

Plumage: Adult (Black)

Exact location: Westlake pond - 35th Ave. and 20th Street - Greeley, Co.

Elevation:

County: Weld

Nearest town: in Greeley, Co

Length of Observation: 1/2 hour

Time(s) of Observation: 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Darrell Fargo (Loveland, CO) (Mr. Yockey? Greeley)

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Richard Maxfield (Greeley) - Steve Messick? Doug Faulkner - Louisville

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:

Strong afternoon sun behind observers on W. side of lake.

Optical equipment used:

10x42 Leica Binoculars - 20 to 60 Leica Scope

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted):

40 yards

Was the bird photographed?

Not by me - but by Messick & Maxfield (Digital)

If so, have you submitted photos?

I believe they sent in some copies

Who took the photographs?

Messick & Maxfield

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

Small lake - 2/3 Frozen in a city park

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

Swimming + preening on the ice with Canada geese

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):

A small goose (bigger than the mallards) Black Head - neck - back Scapulars - Secondaries + primaries and Abdomen Bill + eye Black white ring around the neck below the head on upper throat (Met in Fe) Black Breast - white streak on sides. Black legs. All Tail Coverts white - Black outer Tail Feathers. Bill short

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard: None

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Pacific Brant Not light on Breast

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

Have seen both varieties along east & west coasts several times (also Salton Sea)

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Nat. Geog. 3rd, Peterson 3rd, Sibley 1st

This report was made from notes taken during _____, or after _____ observation, or later from memory.

Reporting

observer: David W. Bolton

Signature: David W. Bolton

Address: 1254 Carolina Ave.

Longmont, CO 80501

Sibley 2nd from bottom left page 76 has best illustration

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-2

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD X

rec'd 1/28/02

Species: Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

Date: 18 Jan 2001 **Number seen:** one **Sex:** unknown **Plumage:** adult

Locality: West Greeley Lake **Elevation:** 4663 feet

Nearest town: Greeley **County:** Weld

Time observed: just prior to sunset

Duration of observation: approximately 15 minutes

Description:

The Brant flew in with a small group of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) just prior to sunset. Overall body size was slightly smaller than several Lesser Canada Geese (*B. c. parvipes*) in immediate proximity. It had a medium-length, dark bill. The upperparts were sooty-black, except for a large, white (streaked with some black) triangle-shaped patch on either side of its neck and white tipping to the wing coverts. The neck, chest, were also blackish extending down to its belly, but becoming more diffuse with white as it neared the lower belly. The vent area was pure white extending up its flanks and onto the rump (white U-shaped rump seen in flight). The outer tail feathers were black. The sides had large black and white mottled patches. The eyes were dark. I did not note leg color.

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: poor light with sun already set behind me.

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42 binoculars

Distance, and how estimated: 20-50 meters (it's a small city park pond)

Other observers who saw the bird with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Dick Maxwell, Peter Gent, Steve Messick

If photographed, type of equipment and film: photo by S. Messick appeared in North American Birds Vol. 55, no. 2, page 201.

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: 28 January 2002

RESULTS:

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

SPECIES: BLACK BRANT (Common Name) BRANTA BERNICLA NIGRICANS (Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: JAN 21, 2001

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

EXACT LOCATION: 35th AVE & 20th ST, GREELEY

COUNTY: WELD NEAREST TOWN: GREELEY ELEVATION: 4800'

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 25 MINS TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 3-3:30 pm

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

JOE HIMMEL

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

MANY

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

BRIGHT SUN

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

20-60X TELESCOPE

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 75 YDS

WAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS?

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

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

SITTING ON THE ICE.

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

SITTING ON ICE IN A CITY PARK, OCCASIONALLY RAISING ITS HEAD

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):

MEDIUM SIZED GOOSE; MUCH SMALLER THAN CANADAS AND LARGER THAN THE MALLARDS THAT WERE NEARBY. BILL, HEAD AND EYE ALL BLACK. WHITE TRIANGULAR AREAS HIGH UP ON EACH SIDE OF NECK; REST OF NECK BLACK. DARK CHEST TO BELLY, WITH SOMEWHAT LIGHTER FLANKS. BLACK BACK. UNDERTAIL AND LEGS NOT SEEN BECAUSE IT WAS SITTING.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

NONE

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

DARK CHEST SEPARATES IT FROM EAST COAST RACE B.B. HROTA.
HEAD AND BREAST PATTERN SEPARATE IT FROM CANADA AND BARNACLE.
HEAD AND BILL COLOR SEPARATE IT FROM SNOW, ROSS'S AND EMPEROR.
BODY COLOR SEPARATES IT FROM THE BROWN REMAINING GEESE SPECIES.
WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

HAVE SEEN ALL GOOSE SPECIES NUMEROUS TIMES, EXCEPT EMPEROR.

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

NONE USED

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

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: JAN 21, 2001

REPORTING OBSERVER: PETER R. GENT

SIGNATURE: Pete R. Gent

OBSERVER ADDRESS: 55 S. 35th St,
BOULDER,
CO 80305.

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