

Eurasian Wigeon
27 Oct 1995
De Soto NWR, Harrison Co., IA
*Terry J. Hulsebus
IBL 66:18, 95

Record Number: 95-36
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Terry J. Hulsebus [*3/24/96 via JJD]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:18
Records Committee: IBL 66:95

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Whether "near shore" is in Iowa or Nebraska depends on which shore the bird was near. Outer rim of lake is Iowa, inner horseshoe is Nebraska!

A-D, The description sounds OK. I didn't know how to get ahold of Terry Hulsebus so I called Mindy Sheets at DeSoto. She remembered the bird and reported that it was "...in Iowa, just off the Iowa shoreline, on the Iowa side of mid-stream."

NA, No doubt on identification but location in question. Can we confirm from the observer?

A-D if we can confirm that bird was on Iowa shore.

A-D, If in Iowa.

A-D, Should we assume that the bird was in Iowa sometime during the day? 'near shore' could also mean 'adjacent to the shore'. Can't tell whether Iowa or Nebraska however.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

95-36

What species? Eurasian Widgeon How many? 1 maleLocation? De Soto Nat'l. Wildlife RefugeType of habitat? Oxbow Lake - near shoreWhen? date(s): Oct. 27, 1995 time: 3:30pm to _____Who? your name and address: Terry J. Hulsebusothers with you: Mindy Sheets - Asst. Ref. Mgr.others before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird observed was part of an extremely varied congregation ~~holding~~ almost all commonly seen species of puddlers and divers. While looking at mixed flocks I always look for Eurasian Widgeon; this bird was sitting approx. 2 ft. from a normally-colored male Amer. Widgeon which served to enhance the buffy-amber hue of the crown of the E.a. Also, the sun was westering and brightly illuminated the birds, making colors extra bright. All the markings were easily verified by the Asst. Ref. Mgr. ~~and~~ field guide (Audubon & Peterson) - Buffy crown, rufous head, pinkish tone on breast - American-greenish eye-patch w/ creamy crown, by contrast.

Similar species and how eliminated: American widgeon - located in close proximity.
Close comparison was very helpful.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no - co-observer readily agreed.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Bright afternoon sun. Observers facing east. 10x viewing scope and 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 30 years of hunting and observing waterfowl. Member (former) of AOU. Lab assistant and field asst. for NWMSU.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? minutes this form completed? 2 wks.

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