

Documentation of Unusual Sight Record

American Wigeon - ♀ and young.

Date: August 7, 16, 18, 1982

Location: Willow Slough, Mills County, Iowa

Description: The young were normal ~~the~~ downy young, so I only describe the female who accompanied them. She was the size of a coot ~~or~~ a little bigger. Sides dull rusty. Head + neck brown, contrasting with the sides. Bill a normal-shaped duck bill. No white around eye.

Similar species: Uniformly brown head eliminates Wood Duck. Normal bill eliminates Shoveler. Size ^{rusty sides,} + lack of white in tail ~~is~~ (not mentioned above) eliminates Mallard. Size + rusty sides eliminate Blue-winged Teal.

Factors influencing identification: Described while they were SW of me in a slight haze (but seen before + after). 20x telescope. No books consulted. 7:55 - 8:00 pm, Aug. 16 when notes were written. I was by the spillway + they were near the south dike. I don't know how far that is.

Note: Wigeon (about 4) summered on the slough this year.

Documentation written 24 ~~th~~ Nov. From notes taken 16 Aug. While watching the birds.

Barbara L Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Hastings, Ia. 51540