

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 10/18/94

Eurasian Wigeon

25 Apr 1992

2 miles s. of Pleasant Creek SP, Linn Co., IA

*Durbin, *Kent, *Fuller, *Cecil

IBL 62:75, 63:69, P-0330

Record Number: 92-11

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

James Durbin (25-28 Apr), 1460 Douglas Ct., Marion, IA 52303
(6/30/93)

Thomas H. Kent (25 Apr), 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Jim Fuller (25 Apr), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240

Bob Cecil (26 Apr), 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311

PHOTOGRAPH

James Durbin (25 Apr), P-0330 [not circulated]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:75

Records Committee: IBL 63:69

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Good details provided for Eurasian Wigeon.



Eurasian Wigeon P-0330
nw. of Palo, Linn Co., IA
25 Apr 1992 J. O. Durbin

92-4

111-005

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92-11

SAMPLE RARITIES REPORT FORM

SPECIES: ~~EUKALIAN~~ WIDGEON
 Number of Birds: 1 Sex: M Age:
 PLACE MARSH NEAR PLEASANT CREEK LAKE

Was it trapped for banding?: NO

DATE(S) of your observations: Times: Total duration:
 4-25 THRU 4-28 4 AT LEAST 30 MIN
 Earlier/later dates by others, if known: A TIME
 First and last dates, if known:

Date, if known:

Bander, if known:

Band number:

OBSERVER (BLOCK CAPITALS): JAMES DURBIN
 Address: Telephone: 319-377-7194
 1460 DOUGLAS CT
 MARION, IA 52302

Other observers (BLOCK CAPITALS):

JOYCE DURBIN
 PETE WICKHAM
 KEITH CARRIS

Who found it?: I DID Who first identified it?: I DID

Who is also reporting it, if known?:

If dead, is it preserved?:

Where?:

Was it photographed?: YES, SEE SLIDE

Photographer (and address, if known):
JIM DURBIN

Optical aids used: SCOPE Distance from bird:

Previous experience with the species: NONE

Similar species considered: AMERICAN WIDGEON

Weather conditions: SUNNY

DESCRIPTION: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird(s), preferably based on notes taken at the time of the observation before reference to books. Attach original field notes where available. Attach extra sheets if required.

WHILE CHECKING OUT A GROUP OF BIRDS ON MARSH, I NOTICED A BIRD WITH A BUSHY PINK HEAD AMONG THE WIDGEONS. THIS BIRD HAD A CREAM STRIPE ON HEAD. BIRD ALSO HAD GREYER SIDES THAN AMERICAN WIDGEON. I THEN CHECKED FIELD GUIDE TO VERIFY SIGHTING. PASS WORD AND BIRD WAS OBSERVED BY NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE.

And finally, is this record 100% certain?: YES

Does anyone disagree?: NO

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Eurasian Wigeon; *Number:* 1 male

Location: 2 miles north and 1 mile west of Palo, Linn Co., Iowa

Date: 25 April 1992; *Time:* 6:15 to 6:30 a.m.; also about 4 p.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Reported to Birdline by Jim and Joyce Durbin; Jim Scheib was there with me; many others saw it later.

Habitat and circumstances: Shallow natural pond in low-lying farmland.

Description of bird: "Overall shape and features same as nearby American Wigeons. Reddish-brown head and neck with creamy forehead and crown. Sides grayer than American Wigeon. Otherwise, same as American Wigeon with white rump patch and horizontal white line along wing. Not seen in flight."

Voice: Not heard.

Similar species: Very similar to American Wigeon except for coloration as mentioned.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: Early morning light behind observer with cloudy sky. Brighter sky with more back lighting in p.m.;

Distance: about 50 yards; *Optics:* 20x scope, 10x binocular.

Previous experience: I have seen one male in Iowa and flocks of males and females on Attu.

References before/after viewing: None before. Looked at National Geographic Guide while viewing.

Time of notes: Quoted notes during a.m. viewing time; *Final typing:* 4 days.

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Eurasian Wigeon

LOCATION: Wet area adjacent to marsh. Two miles south of Pleasant Creek State Park in Linn County.

DATE & TIME: 25 April, 1992 (12:40-49 PM).

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

OTHER OBSERVERS: Original observers were Jim and Joyce Durbin. With me was Chris Edwards. Before and after..MOB.

BACKGROUND: Jim Durbin reported to the Iowa Birdline that he and Joyce had seen a eurasian wigeon late in the evening of 24 April at this location. After accompanying a field trip of the Iowa City Bird Club to Otter Creek Marsh the morning of April 25, Chris Edwards and I drove to this location, and found the bird almost immediately on the shore of the wet area 100-125 yards away.

DESCRIPTION: The size was about the same as that of the American wigeons with which it was associating. The bird was extremely striking, and the plumage appeared to be fresh and immaculate. The most noticeable feature was the head, which featured rather bright reddish-brown sides and a contrasting wide crown stripe of a bright cream color. The eye was dark, and the bill appeared to be gray-blue. The sides and back were a speckled gray, and there was a contrasting horizontal white stripe. No speculum color was observed. The shoulders and breast were a rich rusty-pink color, which was sharply separated from the gray back and sides. The rear was quite dark, while the undertail area was white. The belly was an off-white, but not as light as under the tail. I did not notice the leg color. No vocalization was heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES: There is no other duck with a reddish and cream head pattern. American wigeon male has a green and white head pattern, and the female is gray

VIEWING CONDITIONS and OPTICS: The light was good at midday under mostly overcast skies. The bird was seen very well from 100-125 yards looking northwest using a KOWA TSN-4 telescope with a 20-60X zoom lens.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen male birds of this species in California (1983), Illinois (1986), and at Sweet Marsh, Bremer County, Iowa.

REFERENCES and NOTES: Field notes were written while observing the bird, and this form was typed from the notes on 8 May, 1992.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

92-11

What species? Eurasian Wigeon (1 ad. Male) How many? 1

Location? Nr. Palo. West Central Linn County

Type of Habitat? Marshy Lake

When? date(s): Apr. 26 1992 time: 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Who? your name and address: Bob Cecil 1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA 50311

Others with you: Reid and Pam Allen

Others before or after you: About everyone. Found by Jim Durbin.

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Having never seen this species, I was initially concerned about being able to pick it out. However, from the car, I was able to see orange/brown head - this was a shade I had not seen on a duck before. Somewhat similar to color of Canvasback, but subject bird's head was more orange. Put my scope on it, and made the following observations:

- Dabbling duck shape. Size the same as accompanying A. Wigeon.
- Head and neck orange-brown. Buffy crown which extended to bill but did not extend into eye. The "pate" was not white like A. Wigeon.
- Sides of the bird were steel gray. Back generally same steel gray.
- Undertail coverts black.

Basically, the bird just walked or swam about in the marshy grass. Didn't fly or extend wings, so I didn't note speculum color. View was long and frequently obscured by vegetation, so didn't get much more detail.

Similar species; how eliminated: Head color, crown, in combination with steel gray sides and back pretty much eliminate other ducks.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. About 200 yds. Cloudy, otherwise viewing conditions OK. Bird frequently obscured by vegetation.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Life bird.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Checked NGS on my way to the site.

How long before field notes made? at time this form completed? 30 days.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).