

4-1994



8/8/94

SIGHTING OF AN AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*ANAS RUBRIPES*)  
AT MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR STATE PARK, UTAH ON  
AUGUST 8, 1994, AT ABOUT 3:15 PM

THE BIRD WAS SEEN BY MERRILL WEBB, ROSEMARY SEIDLER  
AND ME AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 100 YARDS AT THE  
NORTH END OF MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR. IT WAS STANDING ON  
THE MUD FLAT NEAR THE EDGE OF THE WATER, ALONE  
BUT ABOUT 10 FEET FROM TWO FEMALE MAWARDS. THE

BIRD DID NOT SEEM TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANY OTHER  
DUCKS. I SPOTTED THE BIRD FROM A GREATER DISTANCE  
AND IMMEDIATELY SAID IT WAS AN AMERICAN BLACK  
DUCK, NOT REALIZING THAT IT WAS RARE IN UTAH.  
MERRILL WAS SURPRISED, SO WE STUDIED THE BIRD FOR

ABOUT 10-15 MINUTES, MOVING CLOSER AS WE DID.

I SAW THE DARK BROWN ("BLACK") BODY AND WINGS  
CONTRASTING WITH THE LIGHT BROWN HEAD. THE

I SAW THE REDDISH ORANGE LEGS AND DID NOT OBSERVE ANY WHITE ON THE TAIL OR BACK OF THE BODY. I WAS ABLE TO COMPARE THE SIZE WITH THE NEARBY FEMALE MAWARDS AND FOUND IT AS BIG OR SLIGHTLY BIGGER. THE FEMALE MAWARDS WERE CLEARLY LIGHTER BROWN WITH LITTLE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE HEAD & BODY. I OBSERVED THE BLUE SPECULUM ON THE FEMALE MAWARDS BUT COULD NOT SEE THE SPECULUM ON THE BLACK DUCK. WE DID NOT OBSERVE THE BIRD IN FLIGHT TO SEE THE UNDERWINGS AND UNDER BODY COLOR, ALTHOUGH THE UNDERPARTS DID SEE ALL DARK WHILE IT STOOD. THE BILL WAS DARK INDICATING A FEMALE.

THE LIGHTING WAS OVERCAST BUT REASONABLE. WE USED A 15-60X SWIFT SPOTTING SCOPE AS WELL AS BINOCULARS.

I HAVE HAD 22 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND THE EASTERN U.S. I AM ALSO FAMILIAR WITH BLACK DUCK X MAWARD HYBRIDS. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WAS

A HYBRID.

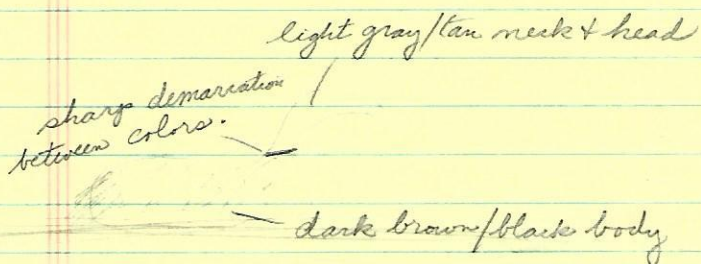
I CAN BE CONTACTED AT: JOHN H. GINAVEN  
1268 DELMAR AVENUE  
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380  
(610) 696-5665



Possible American Black Duck

Minersville Lake, UT

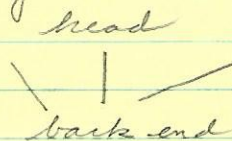
August 8, Monday  
approx 3:30 PM



Duck was sitting on shore next to 2 female mallards. This duck appeared to be slightly larger and was much darker brown than the mallards. Neck + head were uniformly much lighter than the body. Body was uniformly dark.

Duck was about a city block away. I viewed it thru Bausch + Lomb 8X36 binoculars as well as a Discoverer scope at 25X. Bright light. Duck was viewed from 3 angles.

It was on opposite shore so we could not get closer. I did not see it fly.



other possibilities:

Mottled ducks: mottled duck is uniform in color, lighter brown, + smaller than this duck.

mallard: duck was next to 2 mallards + it was much darker. Blue speculum of mallard was visible, no speculum color could be seen on this duck -

gadwall: duck was uniformly much darker than a gadwall. There was no difference between body color + rump color.

No other ducks have this general shape + color -

I have birded the Louisiana + Texas coast at least twice a year for the past 5 years + have observed many mallards, black ducks, + mottled ducks during this time. This duck matches my observations of American black ducks.

other observers: Merrill Webb  
John Dinaven

Rosemary Seidler  
740 Prospect St.  
Shreveport, LA 71104

Member: ABA, LOS, Shreveport Bird Study Group



Species Am. Black Duck Sci. name Anas rubripes

Date: Monday August 8, 1994

Place: Minersville Reservoir (North End of Reservoir)

Habitat: mud flat

Observers: Merrill Webb, 1063 E. 400 No. Drem,

(3) John Ginnaven, 1268 Delmar Ave.

West Chester, PA 1938

Rosemary Seidler, 740 Prospect St.

Shreveport LA 711

Date of this report: Aug. 9, 1994

Time of Day: 3:30-4:00 P.M.

Length of Observation - 10-15 min.

Light conditions - Cloudy, Overcast.

Optical Instruments: Two spotting scopes (15

Swift & Bausch & Lomb

3 sets of 8X Binocs.

Distance from Bird: 100-125 yds.

Calls: None heard

Other birds associated with this species: mallards  
in eclipse plumage; hard to distinguish  
sexes, but all were lighter colored than  
this duck.

Description:

Size: Same size as mallards; larger than teal, smaller than geese.

Head & Neck - light gray, dark eyes, no eye ring

Bill: Dull yellowish-brown - not like <sup>many</sup> mallards

Body: Dark wings back & breast. Couldn't see legs because it was squatting down on shore most of time.

There was a distinct demarcation between neck color & body color - not uniform like surrounding mallards. The darkness of body appeared blackish at the distance we were watching from.



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Description contd.

but not solid black like on a raven or crow. But it was uniformly colored dark.  
Tail: Dark; no white seen on this duck compared to white outer tail feathers on nearby mallards.

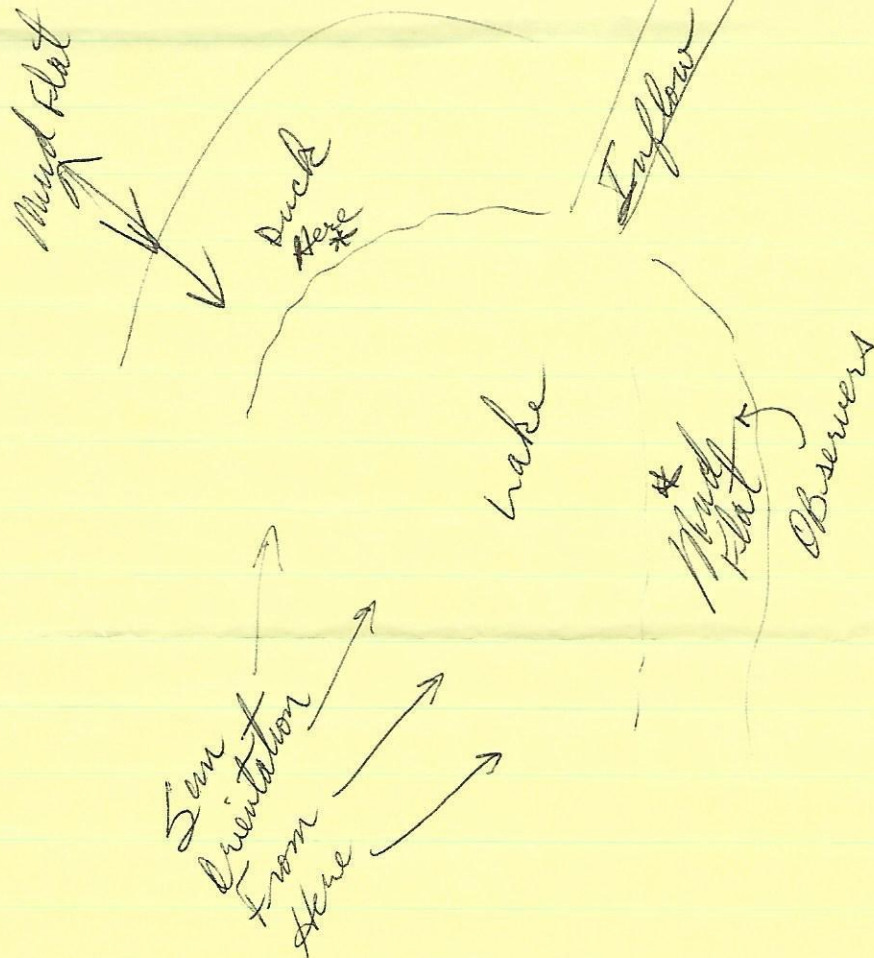
Fieldmarks not seen:

Purple speculum.

Underwing lining. Did not fly in spite of efforts to encourage it from our distance.

Sun, Bird & Observer orientation:

N.B.  
↗



Observer experience with duck:

M. Webb: Once in Texas

J. Ginaven: Many times in the East

R. Seiden: Many times in Louisiana