

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Date - April 2, 2000

COMMON NAME: American Black Duck

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Anas rubripes*

DATE: Mar. 31, 2000 TIME: 2:30 P.M. LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 3-4 minutes

NUMBER: 1 AGE: adult SEX: male

LOCATION: Wetlands; West Trov, ut.

LATILONG: 6

ELEVATION: 4490 ±

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 50-75 feet

WEATHER: Clear & Sunny

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Very good - no clouds

Binocs - 8x50

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

Bill - Bright yellow

Feet - Orangish

Head & neck light gray - contrasted with very dark body

Back, breast & belly - very dark - more black than brown

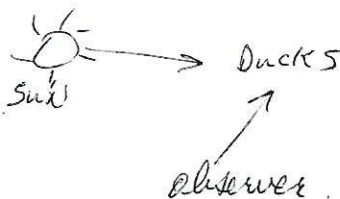
Wings - underwings were very light-colored & contrasted with much darker wings.

Speculum was violet & not blue; I didn't note any white bordering it when it flew. It was almost iridescent & when the sun hit it in flight it contrasted with the very dark wings.

Sound - None heard

Other Ducks with it - 3 mallards & 4 Cinnamon Teal.

♀ mallards provided basis for comparison. These ♀'s were lighter brown, had blue speculum bordered with white & drabber-colored bill.



SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: None heard

BEHAVIOR: on ground near water. when I tried to get closer to see if it would fly, it did.

HABITAT: Wetlands drained by a small stream.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Female mallard - see previous page.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

Only previous experience was with Iwan Call in Texas where we saw four Am. Black Ducks in 1992 (summer). A description I wrote of this species 4-5 years ago at Minersville Reservoir near Minersville, UT, which, as far as I know, still has not been acted on by the UT Records Committee.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

NGS Field Guide
Petersons Western Birds

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING _____, NOTES MADE LATER _____

FROM MEMORY

OBSERVER: Merrill Webb

SIGNATURE: *M. Merrill Webb*

ADDRESS: 1063 East 400 North

CITY: Orem

STATE: ut.

ZIP: 84097

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Dennis Shirley - } April 1, 2000
Reed Stone - }

DATE PREPARED: April 2, 2000

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO _____, DRAWING _____, TAPE _____, OTHER _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1042
CEDAR CITY, UT 84721-1042