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## Rare Bird Documentation

1 message

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[REDACTED]  
Wed, Feb 24, 2016  
at 3:31 PM

To: [REDACTED]

- 1) Reason for documentation: Unusual species
- 2) Species: Eurasian Wigeon
- 3) Number of birds: 1
- 4) Age/Sex/Plumage: Adult male
- 5) Date: 29 March 1969
- 6) Location: Stump Lake (opposite Pere Marquette SP), Jersey Co.
- 7) Observers: Bill Rowe, Richard Anderson, Jack van Benthuisen
- 8) Your name: Bill Rowe
- 9) Mailing address: [REDACTED]
- 10) E-mail address: [REDACTED]
- 11) Others agreeing with the identification: Anderson, van Benthuisen
- 12) Others not agreeing with the identification: None that I know of
- 13) Description of bird: My journal notes, also quoting what Anderson and van Benthuisen saw from conversations with them:  
"Views lasted 3-4 minutes at about 200 yards through 20X scope. Viewing conditions reasonable but sky gray. Bird had medium-gray sides and dark, rich-brown head, of a rusty tone but not bright like a Redhead's (although overcast sky may have dulled it). Chest not dark but no color noted. Vertical white mark on rear flank separated the gray sides and black rear end. Crown not seen clearly. Size and shape same as the many Baldpates (possibly 500 of them) with which it was milling around and tipping up. Difference in color pattern was obvious: all Baldpates had brownish sides; the gray of the European was quite distinct. All of the Baldpate males had gray or brownish-gray heads; none was as dark as the European's or contrasted so with the body. Dick Anderson noted the same marks at about the same distance from a different vantage point; he didn't see crown or chest color either. Next day, 3/30, van Benthuisen saw presumably the same bird from the same vantage point I had (parking lot) and saw the bird closer and in bright sun, including red-brown head, gray sides, and light reddish-brown chest. He was clear that it was a European."
- 14) Description of behaviour: See previous.
- 15) Description of vocalizations: None
- 16) Description of habitat: Medium-sized lake adjacent to Illinois River.
- 17) Optical equipment used: Bausch & Lomb Balscope, 20X.

- 18) Distance/how measured: Estimated 200 yards
- 19) Time of observation: No notes; just morning hours
- 20) Total time of observation: 3-4 minutes
- 21) Weather conditions: Cold (20-30 F), wind moderate, overcast.
- 22) Previous experience: At that point, no prior experience; since then have seen several in North America, some in Europe.
- 23) How were similar species eliminated? Description in (13) eliminates American Wigeon and does not suggest a hybrid, although observation of plumage was not closely detailed.
- 24) Were photos taken? No
- 25) Photographer's name:
- 26) Books consulted, advice received: Description includes only what I saw (as notes indicate).
- 27) Length of time after field notes were recorded: A day or two (journal notes, not true field notes).
- 28) Length of time after this form was completed: 47 years, but based on contemporaneous journal notes that I just realized constitute a record that the IORC might wish to know about.
- 29) Additional remarks: The other two observers cited are now deceased. What they saw, however, was discussed with them same day or following day, and I recorded it in same journal entry. They were both well known as proficient birders.