

135-04-1991

MALE EURASIAN WIGEON IN ERIE COUNTY PA

Ed Kwatek

On Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> 1991 I was birding at Long Pond on Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, with Joyce Hoffmann, Mike Fialkovich & Deane Hoffman. I was scanning through a flock of waterfowl (Anatidae) including at least 100 American Wigeon, Anas americana when my attention was drawn to an adult male Eurasian Wigeon, A. penelope, a species which I'm thoroughly familiar with. It was about the same size as an American Wigeon but very different in plumage. The head was a bright chestnut orange with a distinctly yellow "blaze" extending from the base of the bill over the forehead to the crown. The neck was a similar color to the head but the breast was a duller reddish brown. Most of the rest of the body was pale gray. The undertail coverts were jet black and there was a conspicuous white patch anterior to this area on the hind flanks, similar to the pattern found in male American Wigeon. There was also a conspicuous white stripe down each side of the bird formed by the exposed white wing coverts. These were especially obvious in flight. The speculum was green bordered with black. The primaries were dark brown. The long scapulars drooped over the flanks at rest. They were black, edged with white.

The bird was observed for about 30 minutes at a range of 80 yards through x10 binocular and x25 spotting scope before it flew off accompanied by a female American Wigeon. The weather conditions during

the sighting were as follows: overcast, but light good, light N.E. wind (5 m.p.h.), water calm.

I am thoroughly familiar with Eurasian Wigeon having seen many thousands of them in the British Isles. This was however only the 2nd one I had seen in North America, the first being at Presque Isle on October 19<sup>th</sup> 1991. Having conferred with Jerry McWilliams who also saw both birds, ~~we~~ I consider that they were different individuals, the first being in basic 1 plumage with a much browner body and browner wing coverts and the second being in definitive (adult) plumage.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Eurasian Wigeon**

Date of Sighting: **9 November 1991 to 9 November 1991**

Observer(s): **Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Ed Kwater**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*B. Haas*

Date:

*2-27-93*