

135-02-2005

## Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report

### Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

DATE: 1 November 2005, 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM

(It had been present at least since 29 October 2005, when it was first reported.)

LOCATION: Lake Arthur, Butler County

#### OBSERVER REPORTING:

Paul Hess

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Natrona Heights, PA 15065

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OTHER OBSERVERS: Jack & Sue Solomon with me; on previous days, Becky Smith (the discoverer), Mark Vass, Debra Darney, Dave Wilton, and Ross Gallardy.

HABITAT: Shallow water in isolated cove of large lake.

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 200 yards.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: Heavy overcast; poor light.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Kowa TSN-822 scope, viewed at 40X-60X.

#### DESCRIPTION:

Size and overall shape: Basically the same as American Wigeons, of which it was in a flock of about 15.

Jizz: Head was relatively large compared to body size; tall, rounded, with steep forehead. Neck was short compared to other ducks, even when extended in an alert position. Bill was relatively short and thick at base, compared to overall size of head. Long, pointed tail appeared to extend beyond primary tips.

Colors and patterns of plumage: Head and neck were that of a classic adult male: beautiful rich chestnut with a bright buffy forehead and crown. Upperparts, including back and scapulars, as best we could see at the distance, were largely dark gray with some apparent dark-brownish streaking. Breast, sides, and flanks were chestnut (not pinkish breast and grayish sides as in a definitive adult male; more like a female). The rear sides behind the rusty flanks were grayish (not bright white and black as in a definitive adult male). The primaries and coverts appeared to be dark gray.

This combination of definitive adult-male head along with rusty breast and sides points to a first-year or "imm." male, as illustrated on page 51 of the *Collins Bird Guide* by Killian Mullarney et al.

Bill: At the long distance, it appeared to be gray with a slightly darker tip.

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES: The head plumage was unmistakable, separating it easily from the gray and green heads of the accompanying male American Wigeons with white forehead and crown, green stripe through eye and down sides of nape, and grayish throat and brownish gray throat and neck. The head and other plumage showed no sign of hybridization with American Wigeon.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE SPECIES: I have seen one previous Eurasian Wigeon, a definitive adult male, also at Lake Arthur, in 1998.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: None during observation. I was certain that this was a Eurasian Wigeon, but I was curious about the combination of definitive adult head and rusty sides, and so later in the afternoon I consulted *Waterfowl: an Identification Guide* by Madge and Burn; the *Collins Bird Guide* by Killian Mullarney et al., and Angus Wilson's Ocean Wanderers web site. The bird was virtually identical to the individual pictured on Wilson's web site at <[www.oceanwanderers.com/EurWig.html](http://www.oceanwanderers.com/EurWig.html)>.

NOTE: For most observers, the bird has remained too far away for adequate photographic documentation. Two or three observers saw the bird more closely and in bright sun, but I doubt that they will send written documentation.

This report was written on November 1 from notes made three hours after the sighting.

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Eurasian Wigeon (Anas Penelope)

Date of Sighting: 29 October 2005 to 4 November 2005

Location: LAKE ARTHUR

County : BUTLER

Observer(s): Paul Hess et al..

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Paul Hess

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

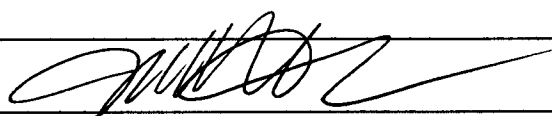
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente			X					
P. Guris		X						
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS		1	3					
DECISION			X					

Comments: C/O

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/28/06