



141-01-2004

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Tufted Duck- *Aythya fuligula*

Number of Individuals: one **Sex(es):** female

Age(s) & Plumage(s): adult breeding

Date Seen: 3/22/04

Time: about noon

Where Seen (Town/County): Tinicum Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): State Game lands #56 at end of Wildcat Rd.

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Final ID was made on 3/23 with Judy Mirabella

Distance to Bird: 150 ft

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Sunny with sun at back

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins. & Leica 20 - 60 77APO Scope

Habitat: Woodland man-made shallow impoundment.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): When I first saw it, it stood out as being much darker overall than all the 200± Ring-necked Ducks & one female Lesser Scaup that were present. To my eye it was a very, very, dark brown. I also thought I saw a small tuft. I did not have a book with me and forgot to look at a book until the next afternoon at which time I was fairly certain that, even though totally unlikely, it was a Tufted Duck or at least a hybrid. My wife & I went back and again immediately saw the small tuft. It was frustrating as the bird was diving so much and the tuft was rarely visible. However, over the course of four days of observation through 3/26, I was able to see the tuft while the bird was resting, preening, or swimming. The tuft was consistent in size with the female depicted in Sibley's. Other obvious marks included: 1. The very small, irregular, white area on either side of the base of the bill; 2. The dark flanks with bold, vertical, dark brown and lighter brown barring; 3. Solid dark head, back, and breast; 4. Blotchy, white and dark undertail coverts; 5. The bright, white, wing stripe and dirty, whitish belly were seen when the bird preened; 6. The bill was rather broad; bluish-gray with a black tip preceded by a small pale area. 7. The iris was yellow but had an orange tint, I believe; 8. The head was rounded and broad from front to back with the tuft coming off the upper down slope of the back of the head; 9. The size was about the same as the Ring-necks and gave the appearance of being noticeably larger than the female Scaup, partially due to the bulkier head.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Mostly diving but briefly sleeping, preening, or swimming.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula)
 Date of Sighting: 22 March 2004 to 28 March 2004
 Location: STATE GAME LANDS 56
 County : BUCKS
 Observer(s): August Mirabella et al.

Date of Submission: 2003
 Submitted by: August Mirabella, Thomas Ford-Hutchinson

Written Description: Yes Photo: Yes 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								
D. Heathcote <i>Quaranta</i>	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman <i>Heller</i>	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	X							
DECISION	6							

Comments:

6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date: *9/5/06*