PORC #: 155-01-2015

Submission Date 2015-01-23 23:01:27

Observer's Name Matthew Sabatine

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Observer's Address Street Address: 115 B Fox Gap Ave.

City: Bangor

State / Province: PA
Postal / Zip Code: 18013
Country: United States

Species (Common Name) Barrow's Goldeneye

Species (Scientific Name) Bucephala islandica

Number of individuals

Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex adult female (if known)

Observation Date and Time 01-20-2015 12:20 PM

Did you submit this sighting to Yes

eBird?

Link to eBird checklist http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S21433447

County Northampton

Location (City, Borough, Easton Township)

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, Iake, road)Delaware River, viewable from Rt. 611 right across from the Autogrille Deli

GPS coordinates of sighting 40.717748,-75.191721

Habitat Delaware River

Distance to bird 75 meters

Viewing conditions clear day, slightly overcast skies; relatively warm with little to no wind

Optical equipment used Nikon Prostaff spotting scope

Description

I was looking through a large group of Goldeneye at this loc ation and, when spotting the Barrow's, was immediately struck by the stark differences between Barrow's and surrounding (female) Common Goldeneyes. The much shorter, slimme

ch showed a much thicker, longer bill. The bill was also nearl y all yellow. This is a subjective feature in Goldeneye identifi cation, as even pure Commons can have fully yellow bills, ho wever the yellow bill also fits the ID of Barrow's. The head c olor, which was a really deep, dark chocolate brown was noti ceably darker in shade than the nearby female Common Gol deneye. Perhaps the best identification feature visible in the field was head shape. The Barrow's had a much "blockier" head shape as compared with the nearby Commons, which showed a much rounder, "cleaner" head shape. The Barrow 's showed an extremely steep forehead, and also the back o f the head was "blocky" in that it came to almost a 90 degre e angle at the back of the head where it meets the neck, wh ereas the Common Goldeneye females showed the head sh ape, particularly the back of the head, that was much smooth er and rounder and even as the head blended into the back of their neck. The female Barrow's was in the immediate vici nity of several female Common Goldeneye, which allowed for a perfect opportunity to directly compare the species.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

all of the Goldeneye were diving frequently, including the Bar row's, presumably to hunt for food. When not underwater, th ey were swimming casually and I did not see any of them in f light during my observation. When I initially saw the Goldene ye group, they were quite close to the PA side of the river, ve ry obviously within PA state lines, but when seeing my drifte d out toward the middle of the river and eventually out to clo ser to the Jersey side, but they never flushed. I hid behind a tree so I could watch and take photos, or they likely would h ave split, as they often do.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

see above description on separating from Common Goldene ye. In short, the full yellow bill, smaller, slimmer and much stu bbier bill, blockier head shape, darker head color than femal e Common Goldeneye.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

the bird's presence could possibly be correlative to the early and substantial freezing of bodies of water in the region. Is uspect this because there have been more Common Golden eye along the river as of late, many of which would not be present during mild or "normal" winters, not feeling it's necess ary to move this far south when bodies of water up north remain typically unfrozen. These types of years (prolonged cold) seem to be the most productive for finding large numbers of Goldeneye, and also for finding Barrow's.

Are you positive of your identification? (Why or why not)

yes. I have seen Barrow's Goldeneye on several occasions and I knew it was a Barrow's Goldeneye immediately when I saw it, because of the field marks noted above.

During

none

After

none

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



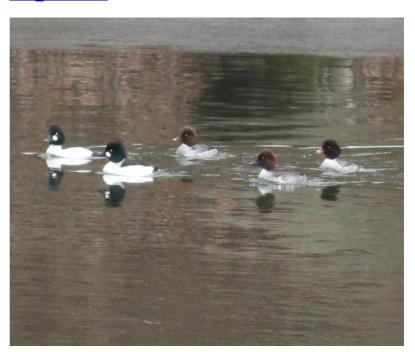
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<u>IMG_1595.JPG</u>



<u>IMG_1599.JPG</u>



<u>IMG_1600.JPG</u>



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