

**RECORD # 14-B-05**

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

American Black Duck

REPORTER:

Lee Sopwith  
5273 N.Blackbird Way, Boise, ID, 83714  
853-7557  
nlsopwith@cableone.net

OTHER OBSERVERS:

Nancy Sopwith

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

5-9-05

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

5-7-05, 5-9-05

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

Meadow Creek Development,  
Garden City, ID  
Glenwood to Riverside Drive to Lakeshore Dr - Pond next to Lakeshore Drive

HABITAT:

Pond/ marsh

CONDITIONS:

8PM 60 degrees, no wind  
sun setting, low in west, viewed in and out of sun with naked eye varying from 8 to 20 feet.

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

after the observation?

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

later the same day?

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

Sibley's 2000, Peterson's Guide to Western Birds 1990

DESCRIPTION:

Duck the same size as Mallard (swimming w mallards) Dark bill-green/black with darker area in center toward head, dark brown overall with edges of feathers a lighter brown, blue speculum, dark straight tail, orange legs

BEHAVIOR:

Dabbled like mallard but did not tip over like mallards. Only sound a low grunt somewhat like feeding noise of female mallard. Was with three male mallards and then alone. Did not see it fly.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

I saw this bird last year in the same location and identified it then. Today I got an opportunity for prolonged, close observation. The combination of body coloring, light feather edges, bill color, size (side by side w mallards)

HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

Mallard- darker color  
Mottled - no chevrons  
Teals - bill length and overall size

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

I regularly observe waterfowl in our neighborhood and look for new species.

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

I have been a casual birder for 50 years and have taken more interest in the last 5 years

WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

Photo