

Documentation
First State Record
Tufted Duck
(*Aythya fuligula*)

John Pogacnik

This duck was first seen and identified by Tom LePage of Cleveland, Ohio on March 3, 1980 at the hot water outlet of Lorain Harbor, Ohio. I then found it at 3:10 P.M. on that day and observed it until 3:35 P.M. I again saw it on March 3 from 4:50 P.M. until 5:30 P.M.

Its head and neck were black with a violet sheen. The head was rounded with a tuft 2" long protruding and drooping from the rear top of the head. The bird's eye was yellow. The bill was a light slately blue color with black near the tip. There was a narrow subterminal white band near the black tip. The breast, back, upper and under tail coverts and vent were black. The sides of the bird were white.

I eliminated the Ringneck Duck because the sides of the bird under observation were white not grey and did not have a white "bar" forward. Also the top of the head of a Ringneck Duck is crested not tufted and drooping. I eliminated the Scaup because it has a rounded head without a crest and its back appears grey and vermiculated. The bird under observation had a black back without vermiculations.

The bird was in a mixed group of several thousand ducks in the open water near the edge of the ice approximately 175 yards away. It stayed mainly with Scaup and Canvas back. It was sleeping fifty percent of the time but even then the tuft was easily visable.

I used a 20x scope. The sky was mostly sunny. The following people also saw the bird with me and agreed with the identification: Arden and Erdine Thompson, Norma Krapps, Connie Dolbear, Jane Thompson, Lee Champrey, Clint Ward and Mrs. Vincent Pogacnik.

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