

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

Full Name: Bryan Haywood	Office Use
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Address: 125 Tarrant Road, Moorak, SA, 5291	
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Species Name: Northern Shoveler	Scientific Name: <i>Anas clypeata</i>
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	23-Nov-2018, 1000-1004am
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	Only a few minutes
First and last date of occurrence:	As above – bird left site and did not return
Distance to bird:	80m+

Site Location
Finger Point Treatment Ponds, Port MacDonnell, SA

Habitat (describe habitat in which the bird was seen):
Western treatment pond on deep open water
Sighting conditions (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.):
Reasonable observing conditions, overcast with moderate breeze

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?
Unlikely as when I spoke with a staff member from SA Water who is often on site, he commented that he'd never seen this species here before. His experience is through being a hunter.
Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)?
No
How confident are you of your identification? , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not?
100%
Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images (fully credited with your name) electronically YES

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?
None within 50km of the Finger Point site, however one recent sighting in the SE region 200km NW in Coorong district.

Physical Description of Bird - *Please describe only what you saw:* (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

One large shoveler like duck with chestnut on the side, white front (breast), and a dark coloured head and neck with a larger than normal shoveler like beak. I was using a pair of 10x42 Nikon binoculars to note these features. The bird was a male in amongst a mixed flock of waterfowl incl. Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Hardhead, Musk Duck and Grey Teal.

A vehicle drove close by and flushed it with the majority of the flock of 200+ birds from the pond. At this very moment, I managed to zoom in with my camera and snap a photo as it left the water. In this image it shows the dark head, white breast and white stripes on the wings and back. The bird didn't return to the water once everything settled back down. Not seen since.

Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

Couldn't be confused with any other species. Very distinctive. Especially as it is a Shoveler and the beak was one of the first things I saw, noting that it was a larger than normal sloping 'shoveler-like' beak.

Was the description written from memory? YES

Were photographs taken? (please include where possible)
YES, only one.

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

Checked my notebooks after a trip to UK in 2002. Noted seeing this species when in London back in September of that year.

When I saw it in 2018, I knew what it was instantly and also that it was a sighting of a rare bird.

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Please email all material

