

CASE 427



NSWO Records Appraisal Committee Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in New South Wales. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including copies of your notes, photographs or other supportive material. (PLEASE USE BLACK INK).

Full Name: **KEN SHINGLETON** Office Use

Address: Phone No:

Fax/Email:

Species Name: **NORTHERN SHOVELER** Scientific Name: **Anas clypeata**

Date(s) and time(s) of observation: **27-7-06 11.10 AM, 11.45, 12.20 PM, 3.55, 4.15**
How long did you watch the bird(s)? **2 HRS. 5 MINS.**
First and last date of occurrence: **27-7-06 - 30-7-06 (SEE P.3)**
Distance to bird: **400 m.**

Site Location (e.g 3km SE of Wybong Head, Munmorah SRA, NSW)
BELMABOPINI (12K.N. OF KEMPSEY)

Habitat (describe habitat in which the bird was seen, together with any neighbouring habitats):
MACLEAY RIVER + RIVERBANK

Sighting conditions (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.):
FINE, CLEAR, GOOD LIGHT (BEHIND OBSERVER)

Optical aids used:
ZELSS 10/40, KOWA SCOPE TSJN-821M WITH 60X ZOOM.

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?
3RD. KNOWN OCCURRENCE LOWER MACLEAY VALLEY.

Did you use a field guide? (or any other references for help with identification).
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Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? **CONFIRMED 28/7 BY TONY BISCHOFF + DAVE WHITFIELD, + 30/7 BY ALLAN RICHARDSON + MICHAEL RODERICK.**

How confident are you of your identification?, e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not?
100%

ACCEPT

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? *If more space is needed for any section, please attach with your notes.*

REFER my BACC URRF 13-5-02 - SP. SEEN PELICAN IS. JERSEYVILLE.
" " " " 29-6-05 - SP. SEEN BELMORE SWAMP. (25/6-6/7)

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? *Please also state whether you saw the complete bird or only part of it?* (e.g. upper/lower/front/rear of bird).

(Attach a description and where possible a copy your field notes)

Other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

(Please append your comments / views following your description)

Was the description written from notes and/or sketches made (tick box):

during the observation or; shortly after the observation or; from memory?

Please indicate supportive evidence available.

Was the bird: photographed, taped or video taped? If yes to any of these, by whom? SELF,
3 HEREMIN

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?) 2 PRIOR SIGHTINGS OVER MANY DAYS. YES.

Signature: K. Shingler

Date: 2-8-06

GLOSSY GREEN HEAD, (WHEN CAUGHT BY SUNLIGHT), YELLOW/GOLD EYE, WHITE BREAST + REAR FLANKS, BELLY + FLANKS CHESTNUT, (BELLY SEEN WHEN REARING UP), BACK BLACK WITH SOME WHITE ABOVE FLANKS, LEGS + FEET ORANGE.

FIRST SEEN ON BANK OF RIVER ROOSTING WITH 6 AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELERS - (A.S.), 15 BLACK SWANS, 20 CHESTNUT TEAL, MASKED LAPWING, ROYAL SPOONBILL, + PELICAN. BIRD SEEMED RESTLESS + WALKED AMONGST OTHER SPP: SWAM WITH OTHERS, STRETCHED WINGS, BATHED IN SHALLOWS, PREENED, FED IN SHALLOWS, STUCK CLOSE TO FEMALE SHOVELER - (AS OTHER MALES DID IN MY PREVIOUS TWO SIGHTINGS), BOBBED HEAD UP + DOWN AS IF DISPLAYING TO FEMALE, FLEW OUT OVER RIVER TWICE, + RETURNED TO SAME AREA - (FLEW WITH OTHER A.S.). SAME SIZE AS A.S.

SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS.

28-7-06. 7:05 - 8:05 AM. SAME AREA. WITH FEMALE, BOTH BOBBING HEAD. NORTHERN SHOVELER - (N.S.), CHASED MALE A.S./S, NECK OUTSTRETCHED, SEVERAL TIMES. FED IN SHALLOWS WITH FEMALE, FLEW TWICE,

29-7-06. 10:05 - 10:45 AM. WITH 16 A.S. (8M, 8F), PLUS HIS COMPANION FEMALE. SWAM BACK + FORTH. ALL FLEW LONG LAPS OF AREA + SETTLED ON OPPOSITE BANK 120 M. FROM ME. CHASED MALE A.S./S, + WAS ONCE CHASED BY A MALE A.S. HEAD BOBBING TO EACH OTHER, + ALL 16 BEGAN HEAD BOBBING ON ONE OCCASION. ROOSTED WITH GROUP. FEMALE DID NOT APPEAR ANY PALER THAN OTHER FEMALES IN FLOCK, HOWEVER THE UNDERSIDE OF HER LOWER MANDIBLE APPEARED A BRIGHTER ORANGE THAN THAT OF ANOTHER FEMALE, - (OBSERVED WHEN PREENING).

30-7-06. 9:20 - 11:15 AM. BACK IN ORIGINAL ROOSTING SITE, WITH 2 MALE A.S., COMPANION FEMALE, 2 PACIFIC BLACK DUCKS, 2 GREY TEAL. FLEW LONG LOOP AND LANDED IN RIVER. CHASED MALE A.S., FED. OBSERVERS MOVED TO AUSTRAL EDEN TO GET CLOSER, BUT FLUSHED BIRDS BACK TO CENTRE OF RIVER.

2:50 - 3:20 PM, UNABLE TO LOCATE BIRD. OTHER SPP: GONE.

4:30 PM. BRIAN CURTIS UNABLE TO LOCATE BIRD.

31-7-06. 9:50 - 10:10 AM. UNABLE TO LOCATE BIRD. 2 MALE A.S. + 1 POSSIBLE FEMALE PRESENT - INTERESTING! - SEE 30/7.

1-8-06. 10 AM. + 5 PM. UNABLE TO LOCATE BIRD, PRESUMABLY GONE.

c3k. away,

(L + J. MCEENALLY THINK THEY SAW BIRD IN SWAMP [^] BEHIND PACIFIC HWY; - SUMMER IS: AREA, c 23-7-06. HAVE BEEN TOLD TO PULL THEIR SOX UP!)

SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS

Also, Tony Palliser advised me to let you know the details of where the Northern Shoveler moved to, in order that it is officially recorded. If accepted by NSWORAC it will be automatically accepted by BARC, particularly if a male bird is seen by a person familiar with the species.

AT 9:55AM ON 12-8-06 I LOCATED THE BIRD IN A DRAIN/SWAMP WHICH RUNS ALONGSIDE THE PACIFIC HWY: BETWEEN THE TURNOFF TO SMITHTOWN + THE TURNOFF TO S.W. ROCKS. THE EPHEMERAL STRIP IS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HWY: OPPOSITE A HOUSE WITH A BLUE MILK CAN LETTER BOX NO: 1649, AND IS 3 K. NORTH OF THE SMITHTOWN TURNOFF. COUNCIL ADVISES SUCH AREAS ARE NATURAL DEPRESSIONS EXACERBATED WHEN HWY. WAS BUILT UP. I OBSERVED THE BIRD UNTIL 10:25 AS IT SWAM BACK & FORTH, MAINLY ON ITS OWN, & FED. AFTER ONE FORAGE ITS HEAD WAS COVERED IN MUD, WHICH WASHED OFF AS IT CONTINUED, SEE 3 PHOTOS ENCLOSED, (ALL BIRDS HAD FLUSHED WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED & BACKED MY CAR CLOSER, BUT THEY RETURNED WHEN I MOVED AWAY, I THEN CREEPT CLOSER BEHIND FOLIAGE.)

BIRD WAS STILL PRESENT FROM 2:45 PM - 2:50, ROOSTING ON BANK. OTHER SPECIES ROOSTING & SWIMMING WERE 20 CHESTNUT TEAL, 4 BLACK DUCKS, 1 MALE AUST. SHOVELER, 2 GREY TEAL. SUBSD. BIRD WAS ABOUT 400M. AWAY.

BRIAN & MARY CURTIS ARRIVED 3:30 PM; MARY HAD GOOD LOOK, BUT BRIAN ONLY BRIEFLY AS ALL FLUSHED & FLEW LOW IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION ACROSS FARMING LAND. THEY WERE UNABLE TO RE-LOCATE IT IN AREA.

I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RE-LOCATE BIRD SINCE, HOWEVER ON 13-8-06 I ALSO FLUSHED DUCKS FROM THE SAME SPOT & THEY ALSO FLEW LOW ACROSS FARMING LAND AND DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT APPROX. 200 M. EAST OF HWY; LOCAL MAPS SHOW DEPRESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE FARMS & I SUSPECT THE BIRD IS IN THERE SOMEWHERE. ACCESS WILL BE DIFFICULT DUE TO CATTLE, BUT I'M TRYING! (MANAGED ENTRY 14-8-06, BIG SWAMP, BUT NO DUCKS.)

NOTE:- AS MENTIONED IN MY URRF OF 2-8-06, LAWRIE & JULIE MCENALLY THOUGHT THEY SAW THE BIRD IN THE SAME AREA APPROX. 23-7-06. THEY DIDN'T STOP TO CONFIRM IT THOUGH, MISTAKENLY THINKING IT TOO RARE TO TURN UP AGAIN. SEEMS THEY WERE RIGHT ^{RE SIGHTING}, MAYBE INDICATING THIS PART OF COAST IS FAVOURED BY THE BIRD.

14-8-06 GEORGE BEDGOOD, (NAMBUCCA VALLEY BIRDWATCHERS), ADVISED THE NS WAS BACK IN RIVER AT BELLINGBOPINI AT 10AM. ON 14-8-06. (ORIGINAL SIGHTING SITE).

SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS

17-8-06

Bob Ford - (Boyers Lane farmer), rang me early to advise that the Northern Shoveler had returned to the swamps behind the milking bails where it was seen in May '02. He saw it 8.30 AM, 17-8-06, & said it was not present yesterday, (he has been checking for me).

At 9.15 AM, 17-8-06 I CONFIRMED HIS SIGHTING AND OBSERVED THE BIRD UNTIL 9.30 AM. THE MALE NORTHERN SHOVELER ^(NS) WAS ABOUT 400M. AWAY AND ONCE MORE STICKING VERY CLOSE TO A FEMALE SHOVELER. NO ORANGE WAS VISIBLE ALONG THE EDGE OF THE LOWER MANDIBLE OF THE FEMALE. SUBJECT MALE WAS AGAIN VIGOROUSLY CHASING 2 MALE AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELERS ^(AS) WHEN THEY CAME WITHIN 2-3M. OF THE FEMALE. PURSUITS WERE RAPID WITH NS EXTENDING & LOWERING HIS NECK, & CHASING AS, WITH AN OPEN BILL. NS SEEN TO BOB HIS HEAD UP & DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF FEMALE, & ONE AS MALE ALSO BOBBED. FRONT RIGHT SIDE OF FACE & NECK APPEARED "MUDDY" AGAIN. - COULD THE ANGLE TO THE SUN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ASPECT? (UNCURE IF LEFT SIDE WAS ALSO DARK). SEE PHOTOS. SEEN TO RAISE UP ON LEGS & FLAP RAPIDLY, - (BOB SAW IT DO THIS 3 TIMES). FEMALE REMED MOST OF THE TIME, WITH HER HEAD TURNED OVER HER BACK. NO OTHER SHOVELERS PRESENT, NOR OTHER SPA CLOSE BY.

BIRD WAS UNABLE TO BE LOCATED AT NOON, NOR LATER, BUT A PAIR OF AS REMAINED. 200 AS. HAVE ARRIVED AT BELMORE SWAMP SO HOPEFULLY NS WILL JOIN THEM & PROP A WHILE.

18-8-06 BOB FORD RANG 6PM. TO ADVISE THAT NS WAS ROOSTING ON BANK OF SAME SWAMP AT 6AM. WHEN MILKING BEGAN IN ADJOINING BAILS. HE OBSERVED BIRD STRETCHING UP AGAIN. AT 8.30 AM IT FLEW AND WAS JOINED BY 2 AS CLOSE BY, & ONE FURTHER BIRD FROM FURTHER UP THE SWAMP. ALL FLEW WEST 400M. & DROPPED INTO MANGROVES WHERE A TIDAL AREA EXISTS. HE HAS SEEN OTHER DUCKS COME & GO INTO THE AREA, WHICH CAN BE DEEP AT HIGH TIDE. THE TIDE WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROACHING LOW. THE BIRD POSSIBLY WAS ALSO THERE WHEN UNABLE TO BE LOCATED AT NOON & LATER ON 17-8-06.

THE BIRD DID NOT APPEAR AT THE BAILS SWAMP ON 19-8-06, AND WAS NOT IN THE MANGROVE AREA LATER THAT MORNING.

20-8-06 UNABLE TO LOCATE.