

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:	Harlequin Duck	Number: (leave blank)	WVBRC 2020-6		
Location:	Wood County, Ohio River south of Sand Creek embayment	Date:	Feb. 6, 2020	Time:	9:45-10:00 am
Bird Seen:	9:45 am	To:	10:00 am	Age/Sex:	Adult male

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)
Chunky-looking duck similar in size to accompanying Long-tailed Ducks. Feet and tail not visible at distance seen. Head not large or small compared to body. Neck looked short on water, but was longer in flight. Bill dark, and not noticeably large or small.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)
Dark overall. When it turned in profile view it showed a light back and several white spots and streaks on head, neck, and breast, thus indicating a male. Female and nonbreeding male only have limited white spotting. Cloudy day so could not see any bluish or reddish tones.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:
None

Description of behavior:
Diving and feeding with 3 Long-tailed Ducks. After a few minutes the Harlequin and the 2 male Long-tailed Ducks flew off downriver out of sight.

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

GPS coordinates: 39.221559, -81.6905186.

1 mediocre photograph attached.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:
Sibley Guide to Birds and Sibley app. Verified observed field marks.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
2 days.

Name: Terry Bronson
Address: [REDACTED]
Date: Feb. 8, 2020
Signature: [REDACTED]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com

Habitat: (General and Specific)

Freshwater river perhaps 100 feet offshore.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

Maybe 1/3 mile away to south. Several high-power scopes used. Overcast, so no sun glare behind bird.

Previous experience with this species:

My experience includes over 100 birds seen in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Ohio. Other observers have also seen the species in several states.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Female Bufflehead is smaller, has only one white spot on its dark head, and has white underparts. Female Common Goldeneye is dark brown, but does not have any white spots or streaks on head, neck, or breast. Female Surf Scoter is similar, but has white patches only in front of and behind eyes and none on neck and breast. Female White-winged Scoter is similar to Surf Scoter, and also has a white wing patch in flight. Female Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, and Redhead are all dark with no white spots. Female Greater and Lesser Scaups are medium to dark brown and only have a white crescent behind eyes—no white on neck or breast. All grebes have longer, thinner necks and do not have the irregular spotting and streaking of a Harlequin Duck.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Michael Schramm, Washington County, OH, [REDACTED]

Jon Benedetti, Wood County, WV, [REDACTED]

Jason White, Wood County, WV, [REDACTED]

Dick and Jeannette Esker, Wood County, WV, [REDACTED]

Barb and Neal Hohman, Washington County, OH, [REDACTED]

Lucine and Chuck Wright, Washington County, OH, [REDACTED]

Archie Carpenter, Wood County, WV, [REDACTED]

Heather Ellison, Wood County, WV, [REDACTED]

Additional observer signature:

(Michael Schramm)

Additional observer signature:

(Jon Benedetti)

Additional observer signature:

(Neal J. Hohman)

