

Eurasian Wigeon

SP 1947

Black Hawk L., Sac Co., IA

Jerry Kelly

Musgrove and Musgrove 1961, IBL 61:84

Record Number: 89-AG

Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Musgrove, J. W., and M. R. Musgrove. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa. Des Moines: State Conservation Commission. p.29.

Records Committee: IBL 61:84

VOTE: 6 NA

NA. No details of this particular record to evaluate.

N-A. This may be a correct record, but there is no information upon which to base a judgement.

NA. No details of sighting.

NA. No detail.

NA. No info to judge.

89-ag Eurasian Wigeon; Spring 1947; Black Hawk L., Sac Co., IA; Jerry Kelly
Musgrove, J. W., and M. R. Musgrove. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa. Des Moines:
State Conservation Commission. p 29.

EUROPEAN WIGEON

Anas penelope (LINNAEUS)

PLATE ON PAGE 31

The European wigeon is included in this book because it occurs irregularly in Iowa and some of the surrounding states—Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Sportsmen have told the authors of one specimen shot in Washington County, but no further information is available. A male European wigeon in full plumage was killed in October, 1933, by George Van Wyngarden while hunting ducks at North Twin Lake, Calhoun County; this bird was shot from a flock of four that flew over, and all appeared identical. One was observed in the spring of 1947 at Black Hawk Lake by conservation officer Jerry Kelley, and another was seen in the spring of 1961 near Iowa City. On May 13, 1939, the authors, standing on the Iowa-Minnesota boundary line north of Spritt Lake, observed an adult male in full plumage a short distance north of the state line in Minnesota.

The adult male of this species is easily identified by its rusty red neck and head, crowned with a cream-colored patch, a grayish body shading into pinkish-gray on the breast, and white under parts. Females, however, might be confused with female American wigeons, although the European bird is browner. The main difference is the axillary feathers, which on the American wigeon are white or lightly mottled with gray; those of the European bird are heavily mottled with gray. This marking would be helpful, of course, only if the bird were in the hand. Sportsmen and bird students might watch for this species in order to establish more definite records for Iowa.