

Eurasian Wigeon
SP 1961

Record Number: 89-AH
Classification: NA

w. of Solon, Johnson Co., IA
G. Edgar Folk fide FWK, letter

F. W. Kent had no record of this bird; IBL 31:66, 61:84, AFN 15:414, Brown 1971

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 31:66, AFN 15:414

Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469. p 399.

Records Committee: IBL 61:84

LETTER

Thomas H. Kent to G. Edgar Folk, 18 June 1989

G. Edgar Folk to Thomas H. Kent, 10 August 1989

VOTE: 6 NA

NA. No details to evaluate.

NA. Presumably, the birds of Audubon Field Notes 15:414 and IBL 31:66 are one and the same, but this is not crystal clear. While the observer evidently went about the ID the right way--taking notes and identifying afterward--we have no substantiation. FWK either forgot or disavowed this record, and I think we should too.

NA. Again, no details to evaluate.

NA. No detail. I have written Ed Folk for more information.

NA. No info to judge--may have been a misunderstanding.

REVOTE (by mail, 1994, with letters): 2 A-D, 5 NA

NA, Probably correct but very little information to judge.

NA, Probably a correct identification, but too little information is provided and too much time has passed to be convincing.

NA, Possibly correct but not enough description to be beyond doubt.

NA, Letter does not add enough detail to be sure.

A-D, Gold color at top of head and not white color of American Wigeon enough to make this a Eurasian Wigeon.

NA, Close, but no cigar! Just not enough info to conclude ID correct. Description implies that light conditions were not very good; however it appears that observers were aware of the rarity of the species and were careful in their conclusion.

89-ah Eurasian Wigeon; Spring 1961; near Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA; G. Edgar Folk fide FWK; F. W. Kent had no record of this bird.

Audubon Field Notes 15:414.

by March 16 (8, J.L. Sam Slosman). The European Widgeon was reported from Bowling Green (1, April 8, Gordon Wilson), Columbus (1, March 30, MBT), and Iowa City (1, May 7, G. Edgar Folk, fide FWK). An increase in Wood Ducks was noted

Iowa Bird Life 31:66.

Ducks. There were "good numbers" of ducks at Little Wall, Goose, and Big Wall Lakes in Hamilton and Wright Counties in April, according to Petersen. Ducks seem to have gone through Des Moines in a hurry, due possibly to a late departure from their wintering grounds, and fewer species with smaller numbers of individuals were seen. An unusual observation was that of two immature Hooded Mergansers on June 24 and 25 in a shallow pond formed by an overflow of Fisher's Lake. The Iowa City waterfowl report is much better, particularly with reference to species which had been considered dangerously low. In Kent's opinion there were as many Red-heads and Canvasbacks as in the past, with Wood Ducks even more numerous and early broods of the latter being seen. An unusual duck seen on a small marsh was studied with binoculars, and a later comparison of on-the-spot notes and sketches with reference works identified it as an European Widgeon.

Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469. p 399.

European Widgeon Mareca penelope (Linnaeus)

Accidental

There are two observations: October, 1933 at North Twin Lake, Calhoun Co. (DuMont, 1935a); and in the spring of 1961 near Iowa City (I.B.L., 31:66). On 13 May, 1939 Jack Musgrove, while standing on the Iowa-Minnesota state line in Dickinson Co., studied an adult male a short distance over the line in Minnesota (Musgrove and Musgrove, 1943).

89-AH

I.O.U. Records Committee
Thomas H. Kent, Secretary
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, IA 52246
June 18, 1989

G. Edgar Folk
701 Oaknoll Drive
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Ed:

The I.O.U. Records Committee is reviewing old records of rare Iowa birds. We have encountered a record of a Eurasian Wigeon attributed to you from the spring of 1961 (Audubon Field Notes 15:414, 1961). Do you have any notes on this sighting or recollection of it? A specific date and description would be useful. Could you write your response on the bottom of this letter or in a separate letter so that we can put it in our files.

Sincerely,



The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

89-AH



1847

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

(319) 353-4152

August 10, 1989

Dr. Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City

Dear Tom:

You asked me 'way back in June to discuss a record of a Eurasian (European) Wigeon. Unfortunately because I have moved my files and emptied my file cabinets four times so far in my retirement, I cannot pull a file to answer your question. I do, however, have a very clear and vivid recollection of the incident. Marion Huit and I were birding in the early morning, and were travelling to Lake Macbride to walk along the shore and trails. When we were approximately half way between Solon and the entrance to Lake Macbride, there was a pond on the right hand side at that time. We examined a group of ducks and both of us noted that the crest (top of the head) of one duck was very different from expectations. We did have books with us but no telescope. We independently decided that because of the distinct gold color of the top of the head, that it had to be wigeon and not baldpate. We did determine that the side of the face was darker than in the baldpate. However, **even in** the total outline and black and white features, we were not able to determine any other possible differences between the two species. I will check out this letter with Huey, but I do not believe there will be anything else to say, other than this. Apparently, at a much earlier time, I turned in the date of May 7. I do not have field dates to corroborate that date from my files, regretfully.

Cordially,

Ed

G. Edgar Folk, Jr.
Professor

*Sorry to take so long on this Tom,
I have been at an International Congress
and the Soviet Union.*