

Barrow's Goldeneye
< 1970
Greene Co., IA

Record Number: 93-BG
Classification: NA

Musgroves 1977

REFERENCES

Carney, C.E., M.F. Sorensen, and E.M. Martin. 1975.
Distribution in States and Counties of Waterfowl Species
Harvested During 1961-70 Seasons. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
[cited by Musgroves]

Musgrove, J.W., and M.R. Musgrove. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa 5th
Edition. State Conservation Commission, Des Moines. pp 57, 112.

VOTE: 4 NA, 1 no vote recorded

NA, A wing submitted by an unknown hunter on an unknown date
could represent a valid record, but is not verified. /thk

NA, Does USF&W keep these wings?/wrs

Musgrove, J. W. and Musgrove, M. R. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa 5th ed.
Des Moines, State Conservation Commission. pp 57, 112

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Bucephala islandica (GMELIN)

PLATE ON PAGE 65

Although the Barrow's goldeneye has been reported in Iowa several times, specimens believed to be Barrow's goldeneye and collected have all been either females or immature males of the common goldeneye. Carney, Sorenson and Martin report a wing submitted from Greene County by a hunter. It must be conceded, therefore, that it is possible this species may occur in the state.

Field identification would have to be based on the male bird; even in the hand females are almost indistinguishable from the common goldeneye. During the breeding season the female Barrow's goldeneye has a yellow bill, whereas the female common goldeneye has only a yellow tip on its bill.

The adult male is similar in size to the common goldeneye, but differs considerably in coloration, showing more black on the back and sides, an iridescent purple head and a crescent-shaped white spot at the base of the bill. At a distance, common goldeneyes occasionally appear to have this crescentic spot, since at times their spot varies to triangular in shape, but it is never the full crescent of the Barrow's goldeneye. The bill of the Barrow's is shorter than that of the common species, and the nail of the bill is greatly raised. Habits of this bird are similar to those of the common goldeneye.

Range of the Barrow's goldeneye is along the seacoasts and in the western mountain region, and its occurrence in the central states would be accidental. Reports of this bird should not be made unless the observer has studied both species carefully and is very sure which has been seen.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, *Bucephala islandica* (GMELIN). A description is included in the main text as a means of identifying this species, which some observers claim to have seen in Iowa. Because specimens are lacking, however, and specimens formerly believed to be Barrow's goldeneye have proved to be the common goldeneye, this bird is placed on the hypothetical list.