

Garganey

2 Apr 1999

Forney L., Fremont Co., IA

*Schmid, *Padelfords, *Kent, *Fuller

*Overton, *Edwards; P-0620, P-0623, P-0624, Schmid 2000

Record Number: 99-07

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATIONS

Rick Schmid (2 Apr), 4366 S. 149th Terrace, Omaha, NE 68137
[9/17/99]

Loren & Babs Padelford, (2-4 Apr), 1405 Little John Rd.,
Bellevue, NE 68005

Thomas H. Kent (3 Apr), 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

Jim Fuller (5 Apr), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

Michael D. Overton (5 Apr), 1316 S. Duff #93, Ames 50010

Chris Edwards (11 Apr), 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty 52317

PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, 3 Apr, P-0620

Reid I. Allen, 3 Apr, P-0623

Reid I. Allen, 10 Apr, P-0624, IBL 70:48

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:93

Records Committee: IBL 70:144

Schmid, R. 2000. Garganey at Forney Lake, Iowa Bird Life
70:47-48.

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, Meticulously scrutinized by multiple observers and
presumably a wild bird.

A-P, No doubt about this one which was seen by many.



Garganey
Forney L., Fremont Co., IA P-0620
3 Apr 1999 T. H. Kent

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Garganey, Forney L., 10 April 1999, Reid Allen photo



Garganey, Forney L., 10 April 1999, Reid Allen photo

Garganey 99-07 P-0624
Forney L., Fremont Co., IA
10 Apr 1999 Reid I. Allen

99-07

RARE BIRD SIGHTING
DOCUMENTATION:

GARGANEY

TO: Mr. Tom Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52246

FROM: Rick Schmid
4366 S. 149th Terrace
Omaha, NE 68137

This documentation was written on Tuesday, April 6, 1999, from a combination of notes taken at the time of the sighting and memory.

SPECIES SIGHTED: Garganey (one drake)

WHEN SIGHTED: Friday, April 2, 1999, at 3:15pm

LOCATION: Forney Lake; Fremont County, Iowa; between the towns of Bartlett and Thurman. The bird was seen in the water near the shore closest to the road at a point exactly one mile east of Western Ave. Later, it was seen in flight over the water in the same area.

CONDITIONS: It was cloudy, but it was mid-afternoon, so the light was very good, and there was no sun glare. The bird was very near the shore closest to the road. Total distance between observer and bird ranged from approximately 75 to 250 feet during the observation period, which lasted approximately 20 minutes.

OPTICS USED: Pentax binoculars 16 x 50

OBSERVERS: Rick Schmid

DESCRIPTION: From first glance, the Garganey was conspicuously different from other nearby ducks on the lake. It was swimming with a pair of Blue-Winged Teal and appeared about the same size as the teal, but its body was much lighter overall, with contrasting dark head and breast. When viewed through binoculars, the Garganey showed a dark brown head with two white stripes extending from the eye onto the nape. Both white stripes were evident on the nape as the bird swam directly away. The breast was mottled brown, black and white, but appeared somewhat lighter than the head because of the mottling. The flanks and sides were light. The back was gray, with several long, silver and black plumes extending down from the back toward the sides. In flight, the secondaries and wing coverts were quite pale.

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BEHAVIOR:

The Garganey was swimming with a pair of Blue-Winged Teal near the lake's shore. Based on its initial disheveled appearance, it had been preening extensively. Its head, neck and wing feathers were ruffled. As it subsequently, swam, shook itself and flew, the feathers returned to their normal placement. The Garganey stayed with the two Blue-Winged Teal the entire time, swimming and flying in a trio with them.

And I Wasn't Even Trespassing...

Almost exactly a year earlier, on April 4, 1998, I had dragged my ten-year-old daughter to central Nebraska on a mission. We took the Alda exit from Interstate 80, headed south past Crane Meadows and entered the Wild Rose Ranch. We entered the property boldly, thinking that if we didn't stop to read the "No Trespassing" signs, they wouldn't apply to us. It took several minutes, but we found the mysterious Garganey in a small puddle with a few Wigeon at the end of a dirt road. We slid the van door open and set the scope up in the van and watched for several minutes. We were interrupted by a local resident who reminded us that we were trespassing. We had our life bird, but we had to leave, somewhat embarrassed.

Friday, April 2, 1999, was different. I had been birding all day at Waubonsie Wildlife Area and Riverton. I had planned all along to stop at Forney Lake on my way back home to Omaha at the end of the day. I introduced myself to a fellow birder at Riverton, and he mentioned he had been to Forney that morning. He said that there wasn't much there except for White Pelicans. I was disappointed to hear that but decided to stop anyway.

At Forney, I passed by the expected teal, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, and cormorants, and of course, I saw the large flock of White Pelicans on the far side of the lake. As I passed one of the small parking areas, I glanced over and noticed three small ducks, one of which didn't look quite right. I put my binoculars on it, and noticed the white stripe running through the bird's eye and all the way down its brown face and nape. The bird was in the water very close to the shore, and based on its disheveled appearance had probably been preening extensively. It was swimming with a pair of similarly disheveled Blue-Winged Teal. As the bird swam farther from shore and shook itself, its feathers fell back into place, and it became obvious that the bird was a drake Garganey.

I watched it swimming close to the shore for several minutes and admired its sleek, handsome look. It had a rich brown head and neck, which faded to a more mottled brown and black breast. Several long silver and black plumes extended from its back and hung down over its flanks. In flight, it showed a lot of light gray and white in its wing coverts, and a green speculum.

When found in Nebraska or Iowa, the Garganey can best be described as "lost". A Eurasian teal, the Garganey was first recorded in North America in March 1957 near Cape Hatteras, NC. It breeds in many parts of Europe, the British Isles, and parts of Russia, including Siberia. Its normal wintering grounds include southern Europe, Africa and southern Asia.

Although the Garganey at Forney Lake was not a life bird for me, it was a real treat to see this beautiful duck, and I wasn't even trespassing.

By: Rick Schmid - April 6, 1999

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Loren & Babs Padelford
1405 Little John Rd.
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation of **Garganey** in Fremont County, Iowa, 2-4 April 1999.

We were called just before 4:00 p.m. on 2 Apr 1999 by Rick Schmid and he told us that he had seen a Garganey at Forney Lake in Fremont County. We arrived there just after 5:30 p.m. We found the bird just minutes later, thanks to Clem Klaphake, who saw the bird land near the shore with a pair of Blue-winged Teal.

We saw the bird again on 3 Apr in cloudy, overcast conditions and again on 4 Apr in bright sunlight.

Description: A duck, the same size as the Blue-winged Teal with which it was associating. It was a male with dark brown head, medium brown neck and breast with darker mottling. In good light, the head had a purplish cast. Its bill was dark purple. It had a prominent white stripe extending from above the eye along side of head and down back of neck. The stripes got thinner and closer together on the lower neck. The crown and nape of neck was black with the black feathering continuing down the back of neck between the white stripes. Flanks were light gray with fine vertical black striping. Undertail coverts buffy-brown with small black spots. Back was light gray with long streaming black and white scapulars. In flight, the bird showed light gray on the dorsal surface of the wing as contrasted with the pale blue of the Blue-winged Teal.

Behavior: Each time we observed the bird it was associating with a pair of Blue-winged Teal and was feeding along the shore close to the road on the south side of the lake. The birds flew several times while we observed them, but always staying close to the shore. On 4 Apr we saw the bird preening and resting on a small mud island near the shore.

Viewing conditions: We viewed the bird many times from a distance of about 20 yards to 100 yards. Sky was overcast with adequate lighting while we viewed them from about 5:35 to 6:25 p.m. on 2 Apr. Sky was overcast with adequate light on 3 Apr. On 4 Apr we had bright sunlight with the sun to our back. We used 10X42 B&L Elite and Docter 8X30 Binoculars and Swarovski ST80 20-60x Spotting Scope.

Other Observers: Clem Claphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda on 2 Apr. There were many observers on 3 Apr.

This documentation is being written on 5 April 1999 from notes taken at time of observation.

Babs Padelford

Loren Padelford

99-07

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Garganey; **Number:** 1 male

Location: Forney Lake, Fremont Co., Iowa

Date: 3 April 1999; **Time:** 11:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Found by Rick Schmid yesterday and seen by Loren and Babs Padelford. Today I was with Loren and Babs, Pam and Reid Allen, Dennis Henrickson, and a Nebraska birder.

Habitat and circumstances: Large, natural, Missouri River bottom lake.

Description of bird: This small duck was the same size or slightly smaller than a male Blue-winged Teal. It was on the edge of the lake near the road and always with a pair of Blue-winged Teal. It had a prominent white line over the eye that extended on to the neck. From behind the two white lines were parallel on the back of the neck and thinner than over the eye. The bill, eye, face, and breast were dark gray to reddish brown and the top of the head was black. The sides were white and under tail flecked. There were several (about 5) long, individual white, plumed scapulars. The bird flew briefly. The underwing had considerable white and the upper wing showed two prominent white bars. The features of this bird were crisp and sharply demarcated.

Voice: not heard.

Similar species: Unique appearance.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: overcast; **Distance:** about 40 feet; **Optics:** 10x binocular, 20x scope, 560mm lens.

Previous experience: I have seen one in Minnesota.

References before/after viewing: National Geographic Guide and Waterfowl after returning home.

Time of notes: while viewing; **Final typing:** 2 days.

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Garganey (Adult Male)

LOCATION: Forney Lake (Fremont)

DATE: 5 April, 1999 (11:45 AM-12:10 PM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHER OBSERVERS: Discovered by Rick Schmid. Mob

BACKGROUND: A bird of this species was reported by Rick Schmid of Nebraska at Forney lake on 3 April. I arrived at daybreak on 5 April in a thunderstorm and 50 mph winds. The wind and rain continued until 11:30 AM. I could not locate the bird until after I had returned from a visit to Waubonsie WA and other areas farther south. And then, the bird was in full view close to the south shore.

DESCRIPTION: General size was similar to the pair of Blue-winged Teal with which this bird was consorting. The most striking feature was a white comma-like stripe that started just in front of and above the eye, and thinned as it trailed off down the neck. The head itself was a rusty color, a little darker on the top and forehead. The breast was rusty colored. The belly was white with light vertical streaking. The back and wing were gray. The green speculum was difficult to see but the white forward portion was prominent. The undertail area was spotted and streaked with brown. The eye was dark and the bill was gray. I did not see the bird fly nor did I hear any vocalization. The bird was aggressive and had several encounters with the Blue-winged Teal.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Blue-winged Teal male has a white half-moon area on front of head, but the head is bluish and the body is generally brown.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: It was strongly overcast with a very strong wind. The bird was along the shore close to the road at 10-20 yards distance. Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars were used, mostly looking to the north and northeast.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None

FIELD NOTES and REFERENCES: National Geographic Guide and Madge and Burn Waterfowl were consulted. Field notes made at time, and this form was typed on 7 April.

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BIRD SIGHTINGS DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) **How many?** 1 adult male

Location: Iowa, Fremont co., Forney Lake Wildlife Area

Habitat: Lake with marsh in agricultural cropland.

Date: 5 April 1999 **Time:** approx. 1:00-1:20pm.

Observer: Michael D. Overton, 1316 S Duff #93, Ames, IA, 50010

Other Observers: None.

Observers Before and After: Before: Padelfords and others. After:?

Description:

Size: Same as the Blue-winged Teal it was with.

Shape: Small duck.

Bill: Grayish black.

Eyes: Not observed.

Head: Dark reddish brown to blackish brown. Darkest on crown. A broad white stripe extended back from just in front and above the eye, through the supercilium area to the nape where it smoothly tapered and curved down the nape.

Throat: Not observed.

Back: Grayish black to brownish black.

Rump: Not observed.

Breast/Belly: Not observed.

Wings: Only the dorsal surface of the folded wing was observed. Blackish gray scapulars edged with bluish gray. Tertials long, bluish gray edged with white. The overall impression of the folded wing was a striking steel gray which contrasted strongly with the browns of adjacent Blue-winged Teal.

Tail: Not observed.

Legs/Feet: Not observed

Vocalizations: None.

Behavior: Sitting on lake shore with male and female Blue-winged Teal. It did not move and kept its head tucked almost the entire time due to the weather conditions.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other teal by head pattern and tertials.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification: No.

Viewing conditions: Severe thunderstorm with heavy rain and 65mph+ wind, approx. 15 yards (estimate), Leupold 12-40x60@25.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Garganey: one eclipse male in Texas. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal: numerous sightings.

References consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? Immediately after observation. **this form completed?** 1 month.

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DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Garganey

Number: 1 (male)

Location: Forney Lake, Fremont County, Iowa.

Habitat: Marsh.

Date and time: April 11, 11:30 a.m. – noon.

Name and address: Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317

Others with you: Mary Edwards

Others before or after you:

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A small duck, similar in size and shape to the pair of Blue-winged Teal with which it associated. Crown very dark brown, separated from the reddish-brown face and neck by a bold white supercillium running from above and in front of the eye to the rear, tapering down the sides of the neck. The upper breast was lightly scalloped with light and dark brown. The sides were light gray with very fine black striations. The belly was dirty white. The ventral area was whitish, heavily striped and spotted with dark brown. The mantle feathers were dark brown with light brown edging. The long scapulars were dark gray or black with white stripes. The tertials were dark brown with narrow white edges. The bill was blackish. The eye was brownish-orange with a black pupil. The legs were black. The bird was seen foraging at the marshy edge of the lake.

Similar species eliminated: No similar species.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

Viewing conditions: 15 yards, partial sunlight from behind me. Viewed with 8x40 binoculars and 15x telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with this species.

References and persons consulted before writing description: *National Geographic* field guide.

How long before field notes made: During observation.

How long before this form completed: 6 hours.