Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union Printed: 04/24/96

Barrow's Goldeneye Record Number: 87-08
14 Mar 1987 Classification: A-D
De Soto N.W.R., Harrison Co., IA
*Andrew S. Fix
IBL 57:81, 58:75

DOCUMENTATION
Andrew S. Fix
REFERENCES
Field Reports: IBL 57:81
Records Committee: IBL 58:75, 64:69
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993
VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

III. Important head details not clearly described, but distinctive black mark extending down from shoulder in to breast is noteworthy. Opportunity for direct comparison and previous observer experience make for a convincing documentation.

III. Head shape is not well described and should be easily told from Common Goldeneye. I don't know how often cresent is equivocal in this species. The description of body and previous experience shade me to accept this report, although I probably wounldn't if it were the first state record.

III or I-P if photo diagnostic. Good documentation and helpful drawings. Description adequately describes Barrow's Goldeneye and eliminates Common. I did not know that there were that many Barrow's Goldeneye in E. Michigan. There are very few records from Ohio, where the species is considered accidental.

III. This was a well done description. The darker backed appearance of the Barrow's seems to be a good mark. A comparison of the slope of the forehead between the Commons and the Barrows would have been helpful.

III unless photo avail. His item 19 refers to a "picture taken"--does this refer to sketch or was bird photographed?

IV. While the overall description is fairly good, I am concerned about the lack of discussion of head shape. Indeed, for an "experienced" observer, this feature should be prominently mentioned. In fact, the only description of head shape tends to rule out Barrow's Goldeneye ("perhaps flatter, more pointed in the rear"). Otherwise, the ID depends solely on plumage, which is helpful, but not totally convincing. If the observers had books, why did they not discuss head shape more accurately? (Along with bill size?) The conditions were perfect for a comparison of these features with the C. Goldeneye.

REVOTE (by mail): 5-III 2-IV

III. Head is not well described, but other features are well described that are diagnostic and eliminate Common Goldeneye.

III. I still think description adequately describes Barrow's Goldeneye. Was a photo submitted or solicited since one was mentioned in the documentation. This might have helped with this record.

III. Details given seem convincing even though head profile not discussed.

IV. No change from my initial feelings on this record. I note that others share some of the same doubts!

REVOTE (1993): 7 A-D

A-D, I really can't understand why this species was rejected. Documentation seems perfectly adequate. The shape of the facial patch can change depending on the position of the head. The body is well described, and there were Common Goldeneyes present for comparison. In addition, this area of Iowa is most likely locale for BG.

A-D, Not clear why this was turned down. Head shape description weak but so was NA voter's argument for rejection. Balance of description diagnostic for Barrow's, especially all black shoulder line.

A-D, Although I agree with previous reviewers that head shape should have been discussed, the

rest of the description certainly indicates Barrow's.

87-08

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee
From: Tom Kent
Re: Request for reconsideration of record

**Record**: 87-08 Barrow's Goldeneye
**Reason for request**: Field marks appear to be diagnostic; only one negative voter explained doubts.
**Comment**: This record was turned down on a close vote with only one of the two negative voters explaining the reason. Although I am not in favor of re-reviewing all close votes, this birds seems to have shown diagnostic features. The observer felt that the facial mark was a bit atypical, but also felt strongly about the correctness of his identification. I would be inclined to believe this record.

(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

87-08

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Barrow's Goldeneye 2. Number: 1 male

3. Location Iowa portion of DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge

4. Date: March 14, 1987 SAT 5. Time Bird seen: 11:30 AM to: 12 NOON

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard

8. Description of behavior: swimming, feeding with other ducks stayed with group of common goldeneye

9. Habitat - general: WATER
. specific: central portion of large body of water at DeSoto Bend NWR

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

11. Distance (how measured)? ≈ 200 ft - compared to height of nearby trees 12. Optical equipment: 20X Bushnell scope on tripod

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

15. Other observers: Craig Harms of Ames

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

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

Andrew S Fix DVM Address: 153-C University Village
Signature

Date: 5/20/87 City, State: AMES, IOWA 50010

515-296-7554

(over)

Documentation of BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

(Supplemental information) Andrew Fix
87-08

6. A distinctly black and white "goldeneye" duck was observed in with a group of three male Common Goldeneye and several females. This bird had the following significant characteristics:

size - similar to common goldeneye
shape of head - perhaps flatter, more pointed to the rear
color of head - indistinguishable from common goldeneye, blackish
color of bill - black; eye was yellow
facial cresent - suggestive of more of a cresent shape than reference common goldeneye but not definitive

Body - Distinctive black band extended down from shoulder to lateral side of the breast. This mark was clearly not present in the reference Common Goldeneye males. In addition, a distinct row of linear white spots was present along the otherwise black back. This row extended from the point of the shoulder posteriorly to mid-way along the back.

This bird also had a large white long rectangular-like patch on the lateral side of body representing folded portion of secondaries on wing.

It was not observed in flight.

Please see photocopy of field drawing

Barrow's Goldeneye cont. Andy Fix
87-08

10. Only species for possible confusion is Common Goldeneye, which was readily separable by the lack of dark lateral breast band in Common Goldeneye, lack of dark back with linear row of white spots parallel to midline in Common Goldeneye. and the overall whiter appearance of the Common Goldeneye. The facial spot of the Barrow's is supposedly a cresent however this was not clearly evident in this bird, as the spot it had was suggestive of a cresent when compared to the nearby Common Goldeneye.

Voice and behavior were not helpful in separating in this case.

13. Since it was about noon on a clear, sunny day, the light on this bird was ideal. Good pattern detail was evident and no glare compromised the veiw as the sun was virtually ideal. We were observing the bird with the sun coming in from the right but it was fairly high in the sky.

14. I have watched birds extensively since 1970 and have moved to Iowa recently (Jan 1986) from Michigan. I have been fortunate enough to observe this species several times in late February along the St. Clair River between eastern Michigan and Canada. I am familiar with both male and female Barrow's Goldeneye and have

seen them by themselves as well as with groups of Common Goldeneye. I feel this past familiarity helped me be alert for the distinguishing marks and characteristics. 87-08

18. This description is based on field notes taken the day of the sighting. A photo duplicate is enclosed for verification. Certainly at the time Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies" and the Audubon "Master Guide to Birding" were consulted for verification of details. Their influence on identification and in this description was minimal since I am previously familiar with this species.

19. Field notes and picture taken the day of sighting. Full Form filled out May 20, 1987.

If there is any other information necessary to verify this bird, please contact me.


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Ames, Iowa 50011
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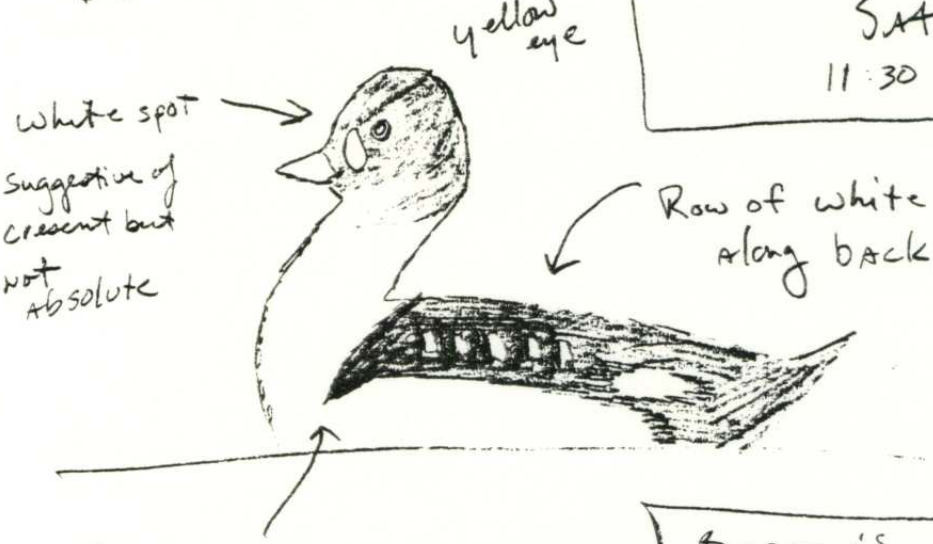
Andrew S. Fix DVM

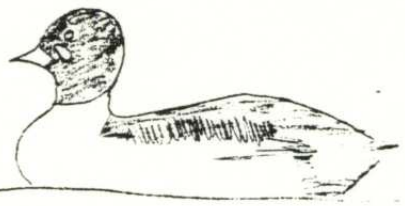
FOWA Part of Desoto Bend

March 14 1987
SAA
11:30 AM




BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Overall impression of very black and white duck - had three male Common Goldeneye with which to compare. They lacked Back spots and Black Lateral Breast stripe



Common Goldeneye