

Garganey  
11 May 1991  
IPS Flyash Pits, Woodbury Co., IA  
\*Jerry Probst, \*Bill Huser  
IBL 61:90, 62:70

Record Number: 91-02  
Classification: A-D

## DOCUMENTATIONS:

Jerry Probst, 1324 S. St. Aubin, Sioux City, IA 51106  
Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th St., South Sioux City, NE 68776

## REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 61:90  
Records Committee: IBL 62:70

## VOTE: 6-A-D, 1-A-E

A-E, The documentation truly fits a Garganey but I cannot accept the bird as truly wild.

A-D, Descriptions leave no doubt as to the species but question of origin remains. I am inclined to view this as a wild bird due to the recent sighting in North Dakota (American Birds, Fall 1990), and the fact that the bird was traveling northward with Blue-winged Teal.

A-D, The wide white eyebrow stripe, light blue forewing shoulder and green speculum, and Blue-winged Teal size comparison are diagnostic of Garganey. NG fieldguide and Master Guide to Birding site the Garganey to be a rare to casual migrant on both coast and accidental midwest. Because of this and the fact that the bird was wary and flew with the Blue-winged Teal I am voting AD on this record.

A-D, Good descriptions, despite time between observation and documentation. In view of the distinctiveness of this species and an established (but rare) vagrancy to the Midwest, this seems to be an acceptable record.

A-D, Between the two documentations and considering the 100-150 yard viewing distance, the details are convincing for this distinctive bird. This species has a well-described vagrancy pattern (Spear et. al. AB 42:385-392). Records away from the East and West Coasts are from spring (fall birds would likely go unrecognized) with records from ALBT (4), CO (2), ID (1), IL (1), KA (3), MAN (1), MN (1), MT (1), ND (1), OK (2), SASK (1), TN (1), and TX (1). This species is a long-distance migrant from Eurasia that winters from west Africa to southern Asia and can overshoot going south to Hawaii (where some winter) and the Pacific Coasts of North and South America. These birds presumably winter and return with Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal and appear in spring with about equal frequency on the West Coast, centrally, and on the East Coast. Asian wintering birds overshoot in spring to the Aleutians.

A-D, Description is adequate for male Garganey even though the long sickle shaped scapulars were not mentioned. At first I doubted the natural occurrence of this bird but after some research in back issues of American Birds I now believe this more than likely is a naturally occurring vagrant. Most records still come from Alaska and the northwest and northeast coasts (where it isn't boldfaced in Alaska or even Hawaii anymore). A pattern of

vagrancy was established by Am. Birds (89:881) and most recently an invasion of this species in 1990 helps to establish its vagrancy in this part of the country. Recent records are from MN, KS, ND, IL and CO, all in late April or early May. This appears to be a good record.

A-D, A great find! Details adequately eliminate other duck species and denote this as a garganey. Range patterns would indicate that this bird could logically be found in Iowa as a wild bird.

REVOTE: 6 A-D, 1 A-E

A-E, A strong possibility that this is a wild bird but I can not rule out that this was not a pen raised bird. If another appears in Iowa soon I would accept the bird as a vagrant.

A-D, The vagrancy pattern as discussed in my review, an supported by 2 AD's in detail, makes the record acceptable as an A-D not A-E.

A-D, This species is a clear-cut vagrant in my opinion. I can provide all of the data if needed. Other records committees have had no problem with accepting this species.

A-D, A pattern of vagrancy is well established for this species with three states that surround Iowa having many records in the spring. And many more records showing this pattern as you move away from this area. There should be no doubt that this record is a part of this vagrancy pattern and should be accepted as a good record.

A-D, The information on vagrancy mentioned in the first round votes indicates excellent reasons for this bird to be accepted as a wild bird.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

91-02

What species? GARGANEY How many? 1Location? IPS FLYASH PITS WOOD BURY CO.Type of Habitat? OPEN POND FLYASH SHOREWhen? date(s): 5-11-91 time: 1:30 to 2:00Who? your name and address: JERRY PROBST 1324 So. ST. AUBIN S.C. IA 51106Others with you: BILL HUSER, BO BLIVERMORE, DAVE STAGE, BOB MORITZ, ART HUSEROthers before or after you: NONE

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.

DAVE STAGE BEGAN SCOPING DUCKS ON SHORE. I WAS DOING SHORE BIRDS IN ANOTHER AREA. HE CAME BACK TO TRUCK FOR BIRD BOOK AND ANNOUNCED. A ♂ GARGANEY. WE ALL SET UP OUR SCOPES AND THERE IT WAS. PERCHED ON SHORE WITH OTHER DUCKS + GEESE. THE FIRST FIELD MARK YOU NOTICED WAS THE BROAD WHITE EYEBROWS ON THE RED-BROWN HEAD. I COULD ALSO SEE THE CONTRAST OF THE BACK AND SIDES AND FLANKS (GRAY + WHITE) TO THE RED-BROWN HEAD NECK AND BELOW THE NECK AREA. (BREAST). THE BELLY WAS WHITE. I OBSERVED IT WALKING AND IT DID NOT HAVE VISIBLE BANDS ON ~~THE~~ DARK FEET. IT THEN FLEW WITH LIGHT BLUE FOREWING (SHOULDER) AND GREEN SPECULUM. IT APPEARED TO BE THE SAME SIZE AS A BLUE WING TEAL ON THE SAME SHORE.  
AND SHAPE

Similar species; how eliminated: THE EYEBROW STRIPE ELIMINATED BLUEWING TEAL ALSO THE OTHER FIELD MARKS DID NOT INDICATE A HYBRID. DIRECT SIZE COMPARISON WITH OTHER DUCKS IN AREA ELIMINATED ALL OTHER DUCKS + GEESE

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

BRIGHT SUNNY LIGHT WIND APROX. 100 YDS AWAY

20mm eyepiece on orion ultra scan 80

Previous experience with species and similar ones: NONE WITH GARGANEY

OTHER DUCKS PRESENT FOR 20 years

References and persons consulted before writing description: N.G. fieldguide

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 5-16-91

Systematically went through field guide while watching

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

What species? GARGANEY How many? 1 maleLocation? IPS - Port Neal Woodbury County, IAType of habitat? sandy water edgeWhen? date(s): 5/11/91 time: mid afternoon - no watch to Who? your name and address: Bill Huser 401 E. 14th St. S. Sioux City, NEothers with you: Dave Stage, Jerry Probst, Bob Livermore, Art Huserothers before or after you: Bob Moritz

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Distinctively marked duck roosting with B.W. Teal.  
Similar in size.

Most strikingly - a brownish head & face with a  
broad, arching <sup>white</sup> eyestripe, tapering to fine line  
extending onto nape. Dark bill.

Perched in shallow water; its <sup>rich</sup> brown breast contrasted  
sharply with gray flanks; both ~~of~~ breast & flanks  
finely barred with black over the mentioned background  
colors.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other duck has similar facial markings

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Direct, frontal lighting est. 150 yd.

32x Scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: None

References and persons consulted before writing description: N.G. Field Guide

How long before field notes made? immediate, but only mental this form completed? 4 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240