

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

ROBINSON

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Cinnamon Teal 2. Number: 2 males
3. Location Big Creek Lake, Polk County.
4. Date: 9-7-80 (Sept. 7th) 5. Time Bird seen: Late afternoon, about: 3:00 to 3:15
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): Length of each bird was about 11 to 12 inches; this length did not differ from the estimated lengths of Blue-winged Teal that were in the same area. Bill: dark; head: dark brown, showing a gradation to a rusty hue; breast and belly: bright chestnut color was obvious and extended from lower neck to ~~the~~ near the undertail coverts; wing: blue forward edge of the wing was highly visible while the bird was standing and when it was in flight. Green was seen in the wing speculum when the birds were in flight.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Voice not heard.
8. Description of behavior: Birds were standing on a mudflat when observed; at times they would preen themselves. One male kept constant company with a female teal.
9. Habitat - general: Shallow lake area with much emergent vegetation.
specific: Mudflat near the edge of the lake.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Green-winged Teal: Blue was seen in the forward edge of the wing when the birds described above were observed. Chestnut coloration also eliminates the Green-winged Teal. Head markings of male Green-winged Teal were not seen.
Blue-winged Teal: Chestnut color on breast and lack of a white face mark eliminated the Blue-winged Teal.
11. Distance (how measured)? 50 yards (estimated by sight). 12. Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster 25x
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sky was clear; sun was in back of us and shone directly on the bird; viewing conditions excellent.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: No previous experience with this species. I have banded Blue- and Green-winged Teal in Minnesota for two years.
15. Other observers: Hank Zaletel and Paul Marsching
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Dick and Pauline Mooney.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Golden Field Guide to North American Birds
Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America by Frank C. Bellrose.
All three books supported the above description.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2½ hours.

Signature

John C. Robinson

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Date: September 7, 1980

City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010

