

DOCUMENTATION FORM

CBC

Species: Blue-winged Teal

Number: 2

Date: 22 Nov-21 Dec 1990

Time:

Location: Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Observer(s): Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA

Other observer(s): m.ob.

Description of bird(s): On 22 Nov, I found a single adult male Blue-winged Teal in with several Gadwall and Mallards on a small pond at the Sandpiper Beach Recreation Area. The teal was quite a bit smaller than the other ducks it was with. Features that identified the bird as a Blue-winged Teal included a large light blue patch on the secondary coverts, a white line along the lesser secondary coverts, a dark green patch on the secondaries, bright orange legs and feet, a dark, slightly spatulate bill, and the small size. I aged the bird as an adult male based on the speculum and orange feet. The bird was in basic plumage, and so lacked the white crescent on the cheek. I observed this bird regularly through 21 Dec in the vicinity of Sandpiper Beach and the nearby Saylorville marina. The bird appeared quite healthy and was frequently seen flying with other ducks.

On 16 Dec 1990, while participating in the Saylorville Reservoir CBC, Ross Silcock and I found a second Blue-winged Teal, also an adult male, in the Mosquito Creek Cove area of Saylorville Reservoir. This bird was identical in plumage to the individual described above. However, this teal was partially crippled; one wing was injured and the bird could only fly about 50 yards at a time. This was unquestionably a second Blue-winged Teal, since we observed the first teal on 16 Dec as well, both before and after we found the Mosquito Cove bird.

Optical equipment and viewing conditions: Viewing conditions were excellent, and I frequently approached within 50 feet of both birds. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope and Bausch and Lomb 7x35 binoculars.

References consulted: none

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with Blue-winged Teal, having banded several thousand in the Canadian Provinces the past two years. Both birds were clearly adult males in basic plumage.

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written on 22 Dec