

ZALLETTEL

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Cinnamon Teal (male & female) 2. Number: 2

3. Location entrance of Big Creek into Big Creek State Park lake in Polk Co.

4. Date: September 7, 1980 5. Time Bird seen: _____ to _____

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):

The male bird was the same size and shape of a blue-winged teal. A rusty red extended from the bird's neck down its belly to its tail feathers. Its head was a light tan to eye level and then a little darker on the top of its head. Its bill was black. The bird had a blue speculum and when it flew the underparts of the wing were of a light color edged by a dark color.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

none heard

8. Description of behavior: sitting with female on mudflat with shorebirds and other blue-winged teal

9. Habitat - general: wetlands
specific:

entrance of stream into lake, area contained mudflats, marsh (cattails) and open water

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Since the bird was the same size as a blue-winged teal, the chief factor in differentiating the two species, was the rusty-red color on the bird's neck breast and tail feathers. When the two species flew, it was easy to separate the light tan breast of the blue-winged teal from the rusty-red breast of the

11. Distance (how measured)? cinnamon teal 12. Optical equipment: Bushnell spacemaster scope
50-75 yards (estimate)

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): 25X
Clear sky with sun in the west (our right side)

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

Bear River Migratory Refuge, Utah

15. Other observers: John Robinson, Paul Martsching

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Dick and Pauline Mooney of Des Moines

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

Golden Guide Birds of North America

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

Signature

Hank Zallettel

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Date: September 9, 1980

City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010