

Subj: **Common Teal in Allamakee County**
Date: 11/23/99 10:35:03 PM Central Standard Time
From: zarxzar@SALAMANDER.COM (Ric & Betty Zarwell)
Sender: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)
Reply-to: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)
To: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG

----- Information from the mail header -----

Sender: Bird discussion list for Iowa <IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG>
Poster: Ric & Betty Zarwell <zarxzar@SALAMANDER.COM>
Subject: Common Teal in Allamakee County

Hi Birders:

With apologies for posting this message so late (due to family medical situations, and other urgent duties), I would like to report a lone male Common Teal observed by my wife Betty and I in bright sunlight on the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 21st. This Eurasian teal was observed at about 100 yards while resting in Pool #9 of the Upper Mississippi River, from Red Oak Road, about 1.5 miles north of the western (Iowa) end of dam #9 in Allamakee County. Red Oak Road is a partly gravel, partly dirt road. Drive about 2 miles north of Harpers Ferry, IA on the Great River Road (a highway). Where the highway makes a sweeping left (west) turn away from the Miss. River Valley, Red Oak Road forks off to the right (east) and continues to follow the river northward. The Common Teal was seen approximately 1.5 miles north of this intersection.

About 3-4 weeks ago a Common Teal was reported from the Genoa Fish Hatchery area in Wisconsin which is only about 25 miles upstream on the "Father of Waters," so this may possibly be the same individual. Female Green-winged Teal and female Common Teal are essentially indistinguishable in the wild. The male Common Teal (*Anas crecca*) observed on 11-21-99 lacked the vertical white line between breast and flank, and had a noticeably more buffy rear end than a male Green-winged Teal. However, the most outstanding characteristic seen was the distinct yellowish outline which surrounded and "set off" the green facial marking on the chestnut colored head. Less than 10 minutes after seeing the Common Teal and further northward on Red Oak Road, we had a chance to compare the first individual with 4 or 5 male Green-winged Teal, also in good sunlight. Checking a half dozen or so field guides and waterfowl books late Monday and today confirmed identification.

Again, I am sorry for the late post, but I figured "better late than never." Red Oak Road will be quite slippery tomorrow 11-24-99 due to rains today, but I intend to be out trying to relocate this specimen.

Ric Zarwell
Lansing, Iowa

For IA-BIRD archives visit
<<http://www.audubon.org/listserv/IA-BIRD.html>>.

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <owner-ia-bird@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG>

Not included in
field reports -
no mention of white
stripe on scapulars.
head description
not detailed
enough.
likely correct.
TNC
file.