

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Blue-winged Teal

Number: 1 immature female

Location: Montrose, Lee Co., IA

Habitat: shallow, muddy marsh

Date: 22 December 1997

Time: 3:35-3:50 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird: Gordon Brown, Jim Sinclair

Description of bird(s): We were birding the marsh along the north edge of Montrose when I spotted a lone duck feeding in a shallow muddy area. The small size indicated the bird was a teal. Several features immediately indicated to me that the bird was a Blue-winged Teal: the pale facial stripe, white area at the base of the bill, seemingly large size for a Green-winged Teal, and large bill size. The bill was at least as long as the length of the head and dark-colored. After several minutes, the bird finally walked on the bank and began preening, allowing us to see the wings. The speculum was as follows: very pale line of white color across the secondary coverts and dull blue in the secondaries. I have handled and banded thousands of Blue-winged Teal in Canada and this bird was unquestionably an immature (hatch year) female based on the speculum pattern.

Similar species and how eliminated: The small size eliminates all other waterfowl except for Green-winged Teal. Green-winged Teal has a smaller bill, lacks white on the face, and has green and rust color in the speculum.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 50m. I used 10x42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have considerable experience with Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal and other waterfowl species than occur in the Midwest.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: written 24 December 1997