

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAGE BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

8-90-11

Species: Garganey  
(Vernacular name)

Anas querquedula  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound: future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 26 and 27 April, 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~ 7:30 to 7:50 am on 4-27

Locality: Jackson Reservoir  
Ft. Morgan, Colorado  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Kowa 20-60x scope; Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: 1 ♂; 1 ♀ Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Excellent on 4-27 with morning sun from left.

Distance from bird, and how measured: ~100 yds estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Seen both days with mixed teal flocks, mainly Blue-winged. On 4-27 was with all 3 teal species, for side-by-side comparison. Fairly secretive and easily spooked. Preferred flooded, weedy lake edge with lots of low cover.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains reservoir.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Joe Roller, John & Bill Prether and many others

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Male: Unmistakeable. About size and shape of Blue-winged Teal. Breast & head finely speckled (head) or barred (breast) black on brown, so it looks brownish overall. Wide white line arched over eye on face, then back & down sides of hind-neck. I only saw this individual for about 15 seconds.

Female: About size and shape of Blue-winged Teal. Larger than Green-winged Teal & bill same size as Blue-winged (larger than G-w and smaller than Cinn. T.) Bird seen in good light adjacent to other 3 species. Compared to Green-w. Teal is slightly larger, is not as gray (is brownish), has coarser markings on sides. Face pattern is stronger and more distinctive than other female teal. It has 2 curving buff stripes, one above & one below eye; Each is vaguely bordered by dark, thus forming a darker line through eye. Has very dark crown, that is flat-shaped.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

- Male is unmistakable.

- Female:

G-w. Teal = Is greyer, smaller overall, smaller-billed. Green-winged has plain face.

Cinn. Teal = Has very plain face without stripes. Darker & more evenly colored.

Blue-winged Teal = Most similar, but lacks strong buff stripes on face, having only a light spot at base of bill. Crown not as dark.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None with this species; much with other teal ♀ & ♂.

This report was written from notes made during X after    observation; from memory   .

NAME (print): Mark Janos

Mailing address: 10 Sedum Ct. Pueblo, CO 81001

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD 

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: GARGANEY  
(Vernacular Name)ANAS QUERQUEOLA  
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 26 APRIL 1990Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: MALE Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: JACKSON RESERVOIR Elevation: 4700'?Nearest town: GOODRICH County: MORGANTime(s) observed: 9am - 9:45 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BRIGHT MORNING SUNSHINE AT MY BACKOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): TELESCOPE 20-45X 10X BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 60 YARDS (ESTIMATED)

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

SWIMMING AND PEEPING IN SHALLOW WATER WITH MUCH VEGETATION

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THE BIRD WAS THE SAME SIZE AS BLUE-WINGED AND Cinnamon TEALS WITH WHICH IT WAS ASSOCIATING. ITS MOST STRIKING FEATURE WAS THE EYELINE. IT STARTED ABOVE EYE IN FRONT OF THE EYE, WENT OVER THE EYE AND DOWN MOST OF THE NECK. THE LINES DO NOT MEET ON THE HINDNECK, BUT BOTH CAN BE SEEN WHEN THE BIRD IS FACING AWAY.

Description (continued):

THE OTHER VERY NOTICEABLE FEATURE WAS THE GRAY PATCHES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BODY WHICH COVERED THE MIDDLE THIRD OF THE BIRD. THE FRONT AND BACK THROATS WERE BROWN AND CONTRASTED STRONGLY WITH THE GRAY IN BETWEEN. THE UPPER WING COverts (I THINK) WERE LONG AND DROOPED OVER THE REAR PART OF THE BIRD'S BACK (THIS IS VERY WELL ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 75 OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE). NECK AND FACE WERE THE DARK CATERPILLAR - THE BILL AND EYES DARK. I DID NOT SEE THE BIRD FLY AND SO DID NOT SEE LEG AND FOOT COLOR OR THE BIRD'S SPECULUM COLOR.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

EDGE OF JACKSON RESERVOIR IN SHALLOW POND WITH MUCH VEGETATION

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

WAS WITH ALL 3 U.S. TEAL SPECIES - HEAD PATTERN AND COLOR IS WRONG FOR ALL OF THEM. NO GREEN ON BIRD ELIMINATES MOST OTHER POSSIBLE U.S. TEAL SPECIES.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I HAVE SEEN A MALE GARGANEY ONCE BEFORE IN ENGLAND 15 YEARS AGO.  
VERY FAMILIAR WITH ALL OTHER U.S. DUCKS.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory  
Date and time report was written: 7pm 26 APRIL 1990

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35TH ST, BOULDER, CO 80302

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205