

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

Records of Vermont Birds

SPECIES: Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)

NUMBER OBSERVED: 1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT:

Don Jones - dwilbertjones@gmail.com

OTHER OBSERVERS:

Zac Cota - zcotaweaver@gmail.com

Isis Erb - isisunit@gmail.com

LOCATION: Creek Road, Middlebury, VT (43.918184, -73.169025)

DATE: April 8, 2015

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:

1405-1450

DISTANCES FROM BIRD:

~250 meters

WEATHER:

Rain showers. Overcast. 46 deg. F.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:

Kowa 25-60x88 spotting scope

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:

I am very familiar with American Green-winged Teal. This was only my second encounter with the Eurasian subspecies, the first of which came a week before on the Lemon Fair River (RSD submitted by I. Worley).

OTHER DOCUMENTATION:

Too distant for photographs.

HABITAT:

Flooded cornfields in river bottom adjacent to Otter Creek, which annually attract large numbers of ducks during spring migration.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR:

Actively foraging with large flock of American GWTE and many other duck species.

VOCALIZATION:

None heard.

DESCRIPTION: (from field notes)

Structurally identical to American GWTE with generally similar plumage: much smaller than MALL and ABDU, gray sides with buffy flanks, rust-red head with broad, dark green stripe through and behind eye. Bold white horizontal stripe along sides below scapulars. Lacking vertical white spur at front of sides.

Relative size and shape:

See above.

Head:

See above.

Feet and Bill:

Feet not seen while foraging underwater. Bill dark.

Upper back:

Grayish.

Lower back and rump:

Not seen well.

Wings (shape, length, markings):

Seen only at rest.

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:

See above.

Tail:

Not seen well

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

Small size obviously pointed to some species of teal and eliminated other dabbling ducks. Head pattern and buffy triangle on flanks ruled out CITE and BWTE. Quite similar in plumage to American GWTE; bold white horizontal stripe along upper sides just below scapulars first tipped me off that this bird was different. Clean, unmarked front of sides (lacking vertical white spur) definitively ruled out American GWTE or a hybrid of the two subspecies.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

Field notes taken from eBird checklist completed at the time of observation
(<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22758528>)

NAME (print): Don Jones SIGNATURE (not req'd): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: 705 S. 22nd St. Laramie, WY 82070

DATE: 1 October 2015

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtcostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee,
Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055