







Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

Species: "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)

Number of Individuals 1 Sex Male

Plumage - basic male

Date of Observation February 29, 2004 Time: 4:10 until about 4:30 p.m.

J. Irvin Zook Farm

132 Beech Tree Ln,

Belleville, PA 17004-8708

Mifflin County

Exact Site: small stream south of barn

James Dunn

212 E. Irvin

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Other Observers : J. Irvin Zook

Habitat: small stream and banks thereof. Banks had grassy strip on edge and snow farther away

Distance to Bird: approximately 40 yards

Viewing Conditions: It was overcast, but not dark. The sun would have been behind us had it been out. It was about 55 degrees and calm. There was an unobstructed view of the bird for 20 minutes.

Optical Equipment: Kowa scope with 20-60X zoom, Leica 8 x 42 binoculars

Description:

On February 27, 2004, Jay Zook of Belleville, PA in Mifflin County reported a possible Eurasian Teal on his property. On February 29, 2004 I went to his farm and we found the bird in question. The bird had been there for a few days with a resident flock of mallards and a non-resident green-winged teal. Jay reported that on occasion this teal was chasing the green-winged teal around in the water. While Jay and I were watching the birds were not together except when they flew, although they were near one another. I did not notice any size difference between the two teals. The bird in question is obviously a breeding male teal, with the green around the eye on an otherwise reddish brown head, and a yellow section on a black rump. It has a bold horizontal white wing stripe and does not have any trace of the white vertical bar of the American Green-winged teal or of the intergrade American-Eurasian bird, as shown in Sibley or on

<http://www.oceanwanderers.com/OWIDT.html> The latter picture shows a very faint vertical bar but this bird has no hint on such a bar. Similarly on

http://thebirdguide.com/identification/Eurasian_Teal/teal.htm Bird B and Bird D have a vertical bar. This was not visible through our optics or in the photos below.

There is a hint of a whitish area just fore of the rump but it is not pronounced. This area is more conspicuous in Sibley than in my European Bird guides (Lars Jonsson, Birds of Europe, for example). The bird was in a small stream and was about 40 yards from where we viewed it with our scopes. The time of day for my viewing was from 4:10 until about 4:30. The bird was initially in the water but then went onto the bank and began preening in plain sight, first in short grass and then at the edge of some snow that provided vivid

contrast and unrestricted view. It was overcast, but not dark. I took 16 digiscope photos of the duck. The pictures are considerably darker than actual viewing conditions, no doubt because the snow in the background led to underexposure. Jay's relatives came to see the bird and it sat still while all of them looked through the scope. At about 4:30 both teal flew downstream about 100 yards to a spot where they could not be seen. Both teal are, in my opinion, wild birds and are edgier than the resident mallards when there is nearby activity. A trip that morning saw similar skittish behavior from the green-winged teal, but the Eurasian teal was not seen at that time. I append some representative photographs. The others are comparable. I have seen the Eurasian race of the green-winged teal in England on one occasion. I am absolutely positive that this bird is as I report it and neither a *Anas crecca carolinensis* nor a hybrid of the two. I used The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Allen Sibley Birds of Europe by Killian Mullarney, Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterstrom, Peter J. Grant National Geographic Field Guide To The Birds Of North America, 4th Edition by National Geographic Society during observation and various internet resources (see above), plus Lars Jonsson, Birds of Europe after the fact.

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Note that even with breast stretched there is no hint of the vertical line

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Green-winged (Common) Teal (Anas crecca crecca)

Date of Sighting: 27 February 2004 to 19 March 2004

Location: BELLEVILLE

County : MIFFLIN

Observer(s): J. Zook et al.

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: J. Zook et al.

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

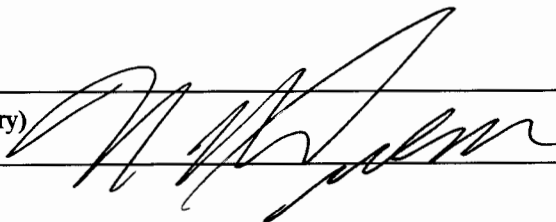
Recording: No

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V | Abstain |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| R. Wiltraut | X | | | | | | | |
| D. Heathcote | X | | | | | | | |
| P. Guris | X | | | | | | | |
| J. Stanley | X | | | | | | | |
| E. Witmer | X | | | | | | | |
| R. Leberman | X | | | | | | | |
| M. Sharp | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 6 | | | | | | | |
| DECISION | X | | | | | | | |

Comments:

6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/20/05