

effect that two Horned Grebes were killed on some lakes northeast of Golden. The date is unknown. Two Horned Grebes were observed on a lake northeast of Barr, May 5, 1906, by Hersey and Rockwell (*op. cit.*). Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*) reveal that the only specimen in the Colorado Museum of Natural History Collection was taken November 24, 1910, by L. J. Hersey, and that Niedrach observed one male on Barr Lake, April 20, 1938. A Horned Grebe was recorded in Jefferson County during the 1939 Christmas Bird Census (*Bird-Lore*, 42, 1940:126).—JACK R. GRIEB and RONALD A. RYDER, *Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ft. Collins, Colorado, June 30, 1951.*

**Hybrid between a Shoveller and a Blue-winged Teal.**—Hybrids between various species of ducks are often found in captivity and not infrequently in the wild. The cross between the Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*) and the Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) is, however, extremely rare, only one known specimen having been reported in the literature. This specimen, reported in the *Auk* in 1905 (p. 321) by Ruthven Deane, was taken at Bureau Junction, Illinois, and was located in the collec-

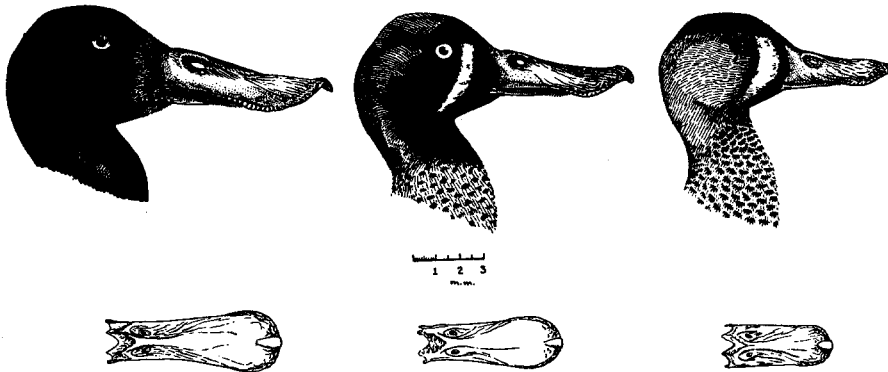


Fig. 1. Profile and dorsal view of bill of (left) Shoveller, M. V. Z. no. 21762, (center) hybrid Shoveller  $\times$  Blue-winged Teal, M. V. Z. no. 119067, and (right) Blue-winged Teal, M. V. Z. no. 97968.

tion of James Catlin. The specimen upon which I am reporting was found by Dr. Alden H. Miller in a gift of duck specimens from Richard Genelly. It is now no. 119067 in the collection at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The bird, taken November 15, 1935, was obtained by Genelly's father at Gustine, California.

It was my original intention to examine the Deane specimen and carefully to compare the two birds. A search for the bird in the museums of the East has yielded no information as to its location. Consequently, I can only use the description given by Deane for comparison. As this is short I will quote it in its entirety: "The specimen is a male about half-way in size between the two species. The head shows the greenish reflection of the Shoveller, the spotted breast of the Teal, the chestnut abdomen, the speculum, and under tail coverts of the Shoveller and the upper wing-coverts of the Teal; the crescentic patch across the anterior portion of the head is normal for the Teal but not pure white in color; the legs and feet have the bright yellow of the Teal. The bill is 0.65 in. longer than in a normal Teal, but is a miniature of that of the Shoveller in other ways." Both this bird and its mate, a female Blue-winged Teal, were taken.

In comparison the following may be said of the Gustine bird. It has a slight greenish cast to the head dulled by the gray of the teal. The pattern of spotting of the breast is basically like the teal but the spots are much reduced and are on the light ground color of the shoveller. The speculum is a duller green than either of the parent species. The under tail coverts are like the teal, yet the difference between the parents is slight. The upper wing coverts are the dull blue of the shoveller. The crescent (see fig. 1) is reduced by half in width and slightly in total length; its color is pure white. The legs are orange like the shoveller. The bill is slightly larger than that of the teal, but it approaches the shape of the shoveller. Some other characters not mentioned by Deane which show segregation or mixture of parental characters are: tertiaries which show a white median stripe as in the shoveller and

rectrices which are gray ventrally as in the teal. Spotted scapulars are present in the hybrid which are not present in the adult plumages of either of the parent stocks. The flanks show spotting and barring. With regard to the breast and flank spots, it should be noted that shovellers show much variation in these characters.

The measurements (in millimeters) of the hybrid compared to average measurements of adult males of the parent species show that the hybrid lies essentially midway between the two. It will be noted, however, that the bill width at the proximal end (taken at the level of the eye) is less than that of the teal. The flare is as pronounced as in the shoveller.

	Shoveller (12 specimens)	Hybrid	Blue-winged Teal (9 specimens)
Wing	247	218	188
Tail	85.2 (10)	73.1	65.7
Bill length	49.8	39.7	32.2
Bill width, proximal	15.9	14.4	15.1
Bill width, distal	29.9	22.4	16.3

The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list Committee now places the teals in the genus *Anas* but has retained the shoveller in the genus *Spatula*. Delacour and Mayr (Wilson Bull., 57, 1945:3-55) list the species of blue-winged teals (*discors*, *cyanoptera*, and *querquedula*) and the shovellers (*platalea*, *smithi*, *rhynchotis*, *clypeata*) as one closely related group, putting them all in the genus *Anas*. This they do on the basis of similarities in morphology, voice, and behavior. These characters tend to be less adaptive than those of the bill. Both the species *clypeata* and *discors* nest in apparently the same ecologic situation and are late nesters, associating freely during migration and apparently on the nesting grounds. There is no evidence that either of the two hybrids here considered had escaped from captivity. Mayr in a personal communication reported that hybrids between the European counterpart of the Blue-winged Teal, the Garganey (*querquedula*) and the Shoveller (*clypeata*) are commonly found. Granting the subjectivity of the genus and the fact that we do not know whether these two hybrids of *clypeata* and *discors* are fertile (*querquedula* × *clypeata* is fertile), I believe clarity in evolutionary relationship would be shown by placing the shovellers in the genus *Anas*.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the aid of Dr. Alden H. Miller and Gene Christman, the latter for the drawing.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, October 27, 1951.*