

NOTES

FIRST RECORD OF A GARGANEY IN IDAHO

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At 1147 hrs, on 20 April 1990, at a distance of 50 to 75 m, I observed a male Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) on the Snake River, approximately 15 km west of Hammett, Idaho, 200 m east of the Flying "H" irrigation pump station. I watched the bird for about 2.5 minutes. The Garganey was feeding within a floating bed of algae along the bank with a male and female Cinnamon Teal (*A. cyanoptera*). From 1815 to 1833 hrs on 2 May 1990, and again at 0800 on 3 May, I saw the bird at a distance of 20 to 40 m, feeding in a similar fashion with a male and female Cinnamon Teal, now 50 m west of the Flying "H" irrigation pump station on the north side of the river. At approximately 1600 hrs on the same day, D. M. Taylor and N. Cummings observed the male Garganey at this same location displaying the same feeding behavior.

The male Garganey was identified by the white head stripe starting above and in front of the eye, following a line parallel to the crown ending at the nape, and by the five long white wing feathers outlined in black. These feathers extended over the leading edge of the folded wing and down along side the body. The Garganey was also similar in size to the Cinnamon Teal with which it was seen.

Observations were made with a 40-power Nikon spotting scope and 7 × 50 Bushnell binoculars. I photographed the bird with 80-210 mm zoom and 500 mm lenses on a Pentax ME Super camera with Kodachrome 64 film (Figure 1).

Since all of sightings were made while the bird was in the water, no leg bands were observed. There appeared to be little wear on the plumage. I spoke with three area residents, none of whom knew of any Garganeys raised by aviculturists.

These observations were accepted by the Idaho Bird Records Committee for the first record of a Garganey in Idaho. My three observations of the Garganey foraging with a pair of Cinnamon Teal not only reinforces Kaufman's suggestion of an influx of this species during the 1989 fall migration, but is in concert with other male Garganeys sighted with Blue-winged (*A. discors*) or Cinnamon Teal (Spear et al. 1988). In the spring of 1990, Garganeys were also sighted in California, Colorado, Alberta, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, Virginia, Quebec, New Brunswick, and on Prince Edward Island (Kaufman 1990). Many of these birds may have previously overshot their breeding grounds in Europe or Africa, or were misoriented in their migration and ended up in Central and South America. The Garganey I observed could have arrived in this manner or via Pacific routes, pushed off its traditional course by eastward movements of storms (Spear et al. 1988).

NOTES



Figure 1. Male Garganey observed in April and May 1990 on the Snake River in southwestern Idaho.

Photo by Scott Grothe

LITERATURE CITED

- Kaufman, K. 1990. The changing seasons. *Am. Birds*. 44:384-387.
- Spear, L. B., Lewis, M. J., Myers, M. T., and Pyle, R. L. 1988. The recent occurrence of Garganey in North America and the Hawaiian Islands. *Am. Birds* 42:385-392.

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