

New record of Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* in Colombia

*Nuevo registro del Pato Aliverde Americano *Anas crecca carolinensis* en Colombia*

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Abstract. Details are presented of a recent record of Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* in dpto. Sucre. This duck is a rare vagrant to Colombia and this appears to be the first departmental record.

Keywords: new record, teal, distribution.

Resumen. Se presentan detalles sobre un registro reciente de *Anas crecca carolinensis* en el dpto. de Sucre. Esta es una especie de pato migratorio, raro en Colombia, y este, parece ser el primer registro para el departamento.

Palabras clave: nuevo registro, pato, distribución.

Introduction

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* breeds in North America and is a rare vagrant to Colombia (McMullan & Donegan 2014), with only a handful of published records, including on San Andrés island (McNish 2003) and in dptos. Cundinamarca (Hilty & Brown 1986), Valle del Cauca (Cifuentes-Sarmiento 2016) and Magdalena (Arzuza *et al.* 2008) in the mainland.

Methods

On 18 February 2019, we were bird-watching at Reserva Natural Sanguare, dpto. Sucre on the Caribbean coast, a few hours' drive south-west of Cartagena. The reserve is a mix of coastal mangrove and dry forest, containing a number of small freshwater lakes. This was the penultimate day of a superb holiday in Colombia – our first trip to South America – mixing some birding with other activities.

Results

I was by myself watching one of the smaller lakes surrounded by trees at Reserva Natural Sanguare, which among other things had a number of Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* on it. I then noticed, close-by but not immediately associating with them, a different duck which at first sight was very familiar to me, as we have many Common (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas c. crecca*) in the area where I live. However, I soon realised that the white vertical stripe on the side of its breast meant that this could only be a Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca carolinensis*). I watched the bird for about fifteen minutes – it hardly moved – and took some photographs (Fig. 1) in which I subsequently noted the bird's lack of a horizontal scapular stripe. I also consulted McMullan & Donegan (2014) and realised that this was an unusual sighting. I uploaded the record to eBird (Clements 2019 in eBird 2020) and noted that

this indeed was the first for the country on that database and apparently the first record for dpto. Sucre – a splendid end to an excellent holiday!

References

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Figure 1. Green-winged Teal at RN Sanguare, Sucre. 18 February 2019. Above in habitat, below close up.