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An Interesting Duck Hybrid Recently Obtained in Japan

With 3 Text-figures

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(Communicated by Y. K. OKADA)

I have received what they called Green-winged Teal of America (No. 12, Japan-taken example) from the Duck Decoy at Shinhama, Chiba Prefecture. This live bird was captured at the same decoy on the 3rd of March, 1961. I have carefully examined it and have come to the conclusion that the teal is not exactly a Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*), but it is, without doubt, a hybrid between a Green-winged Teal and a Common Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), for



Fig. 1. An adult male of *Anas crecca carolinensis* obtained at Shinhama Decoy, in January, 1960, showing a crescentic white mark. Photographed by the author.

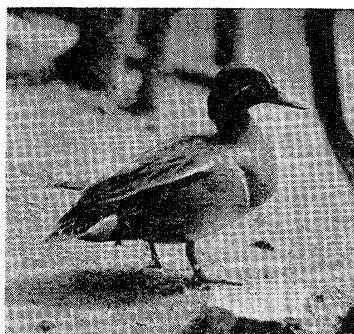


Fig. 2. A hybrid male between *Anas crecca carolinensis* and *A. c. crecca*, obtained at Shinhama Decoy, March 3, 1961, showing a crescentic white mark and a white scapular streak. Photographed by the author.

this duck resembles the Common Teal very closely with a white longitudinal scapular streak on each side of the body, and, moreover, it has a pair of crescentic white marks also on each side of the chest like the American Green-wing. These crescentic marks are smaller and narrower than the ordinary American Green-wing, but close barrings of body and darker markings on head are entirely similar to those of the American instead of the Common Teal.

Cruickshank (1936) gave a note on the status of "*Nettion crecca*" in Long

Island, New York, with a supposed hybrid between "*Nettion carolinense*" and *crecca*, observed by A. D. Cruickshank, R. P. Allen, and R. T. Peterson. I reckon that this is the only one sight record ever published for the cross in wild state.

A second authentic record appeared in Sibley's article (1938). He reports as follows:—"♂ American Green-winged × ♀ Common Teal". This example seems, no doubt, a hybridization which occurred in captivity, not in wild state, as both parents are mentioned clearly.



Fig. 3. An adult male of *Anas crecca crecca* for comparison. Painted by Mr. S. Kobayashi. Showing a white scapular streak only.

Therefore, the present Shinhama record of hybridization between two forms seems the first example captured in wild state. The measurements of this duck as taken by the author are as follows:—Total length, 360; wing, 185; tail, 67.5; tarsus, 31.5; middle toe and claw, 38.5; exposed culmen, 38; black mental patch, 28.5; white crescentic mark, 5 mm (about 3 mm narrower than that of true *carolinensis*). Number of tail-feathers 16.

It is supposed that the Shinhama hybrid has occurred as a straggler from the north, which might have come from a route in the chain of islets in the Aleutian Islands, between the Asiatic and American Continents.

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