

O-1997-01

Possible  
N. Shoveler  
Blue-winged Teal  
Hybrid

Date: March 28, 1997

Time: About noon

Length of observation: 40 minutes

Number: One each

Sex: Male

Location: The Wheeler Machinery Ponds near Farmington Bay State Refuge

Elevation: 4200 Feet

Distance to bird: 50 to 200 Feet

Light: Full sun to overcast

Optics used: Zeiss 10 x 40 Binoculars

Weather: Partly cloudy with a north west wind to 15 MPH estimated

Discretion: The following discretion is of a duck that has to be a high-bred bird. It fits no duck that I have ever seen before or that I can find in any reference including one book of European and Asian ducks. My own estimation of this duck is that it is a cross between a Northern Shoveler and a Blue Wing Teal, but I am not sure.

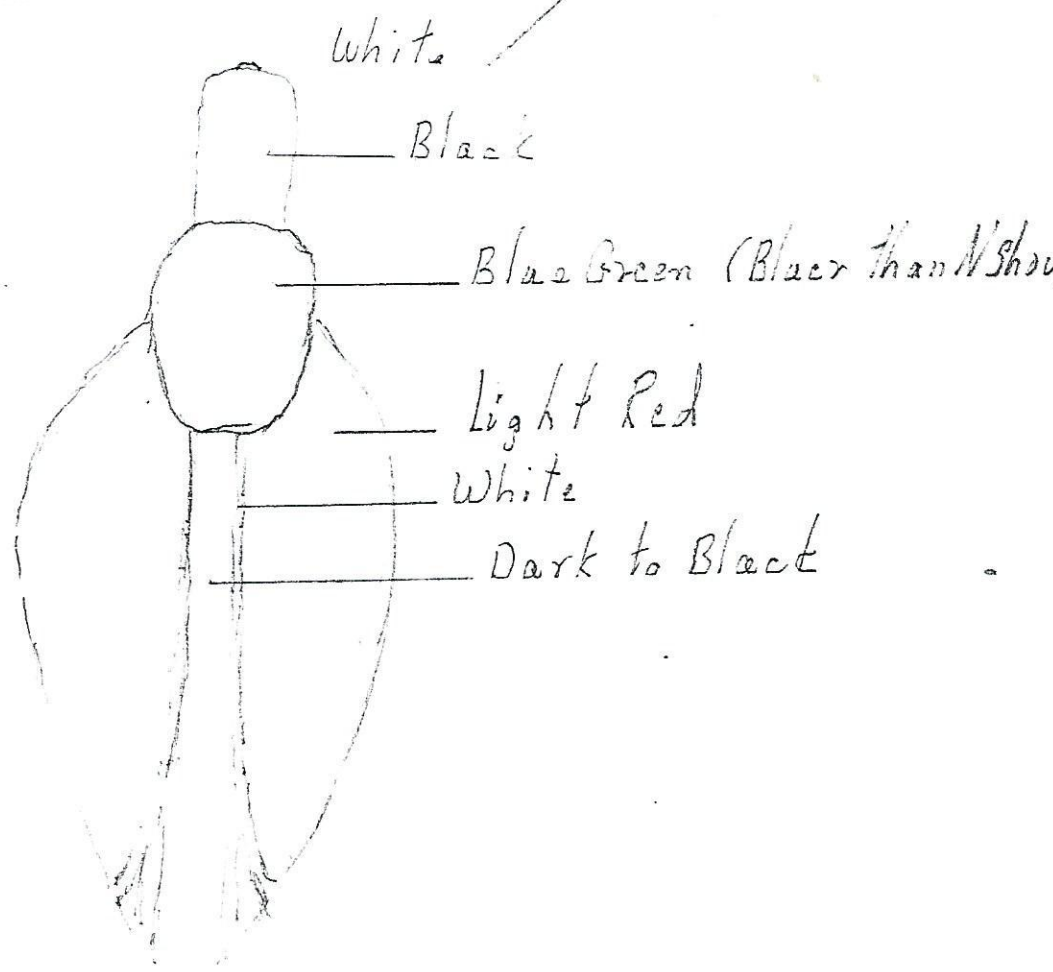
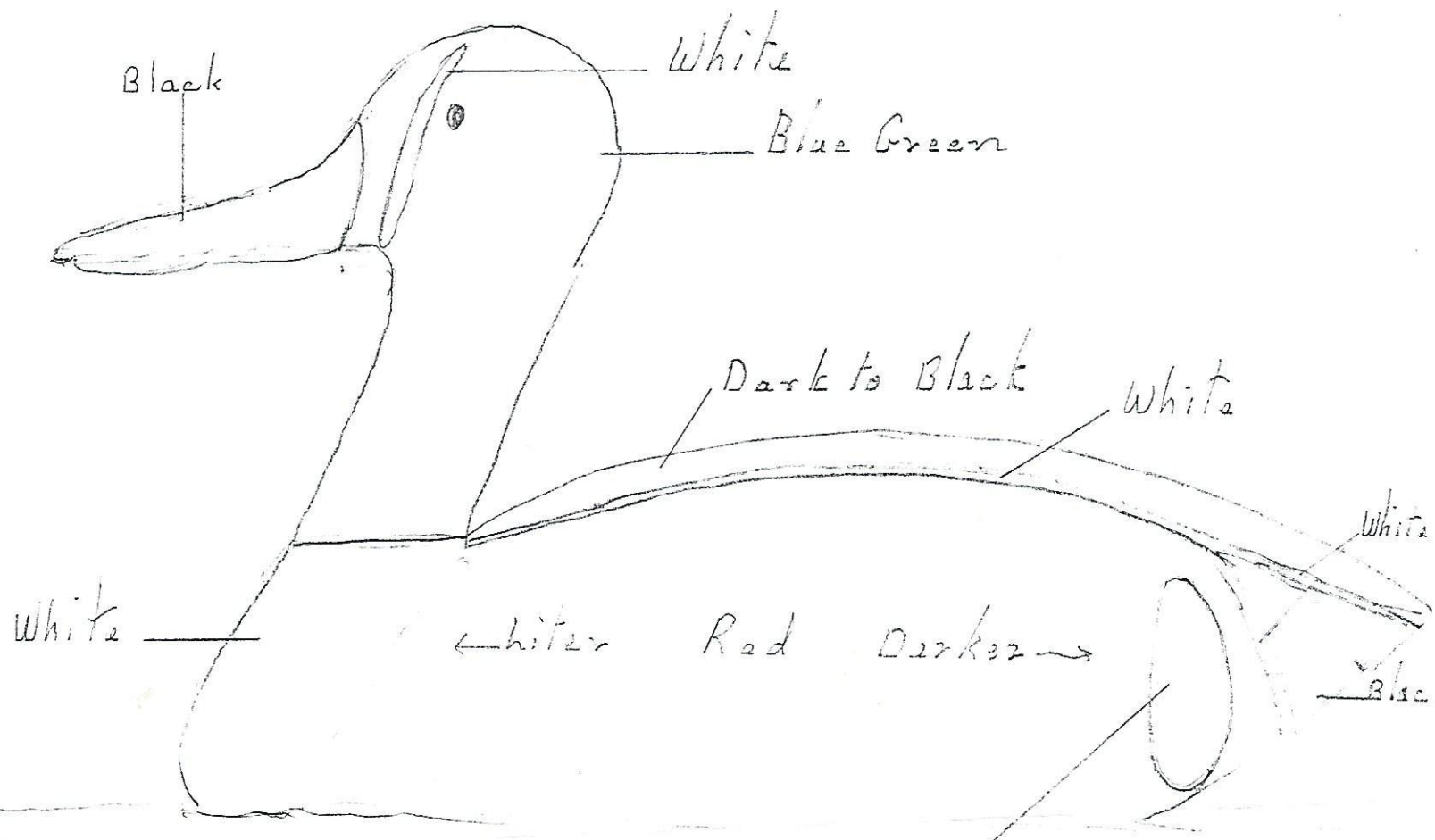
It was about the size of a shovler. The bill was black and shaped much the same as that of a shovler and was about the same size. The head and neck were blue green and the head had a thin white line down the side in front of the eye. This line was in about the same location as the white crescent on a blue wing teal but it was much thinner and straighter. At the base of the neck there was a white area but only about 20% of the white area that in on a shovlers breast. The Flanks were a light red color similar to a cinnamon teal but not as dark and rich as the flanks of the cinnamon. The flanks were similar to the shovler's but the red went farther forward and farther up the back and was a shade or two darker than that of the shovler. There was a dark area on the back from the neck to the tail. This area was narrow at the neck and widened towards the tail. It was edged in white. The tail was dark to black and laterally fringed in white. This bird had dark eyes and orange legs.

Behavior: It was swimming with several shovlers when I first saw it but it spent most of the time I was watching it by it's self.

Similar species: It was most like a shovler but the head stripe and color were like a blue wing teal. I have glassed thousands of norther shovlers and I have never seen another duck that was marked the way this bird was.

Reference Material: Petersons Western Birds, National Geographic Field Guide, The Golden Field Guide, and the American Nature Guide for ducks (this book contains all European and Asian ducks).

All notes and sketches were made at the time of sighting.



If it would be possible for you to identify this bird or give me any information on what it might be I would very much appreciate it. I do not know if a N shovler, blue wing teal cross has ever been reported or if it is even possible. I am including a sketch and I apologies for it as I an no artist.

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