

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

81-1

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad. ♂
3. Locality: Louisiana: 1 mi. W English Lookout, Parish: St. Tammany
near mouth of Pearl River
4. Date(s) when seen: 7 November 1974
5. Times of day when seen:
6. Reporting observer and address: Coll. by James Lee (duck hunter); prep. by
G.H. Lowery, Jr., Mus. of Zool. LSU (#5616)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
11. Distance to bird:
12. Duration of observation:
13. Habitat (general and specific):
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

Label notation: extremely fat; testes



Specimen LSUMZ 80123

No physical evidence of captivity, according to G. H. Lowery and Robert J. Newman. Various bird farms and aviaries were investigated and all reported no escapees and all birds accounted for. Investigation was limited to those farms and aviaries in S. La. and adjacent Mississippi.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

19. Previous experience with this species:

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation;

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation; _____ memory.

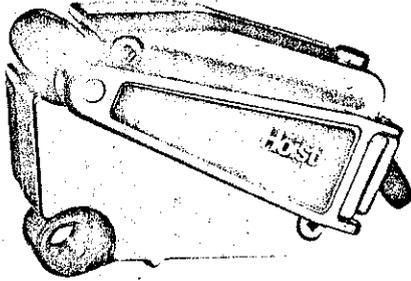
22. Are you positive of your identification? _____. If not, explain: _____

23. Signature of reporter: Report assembled by David B. Crider, Secretary

24. Date and time of writing this account: 2 February 1981

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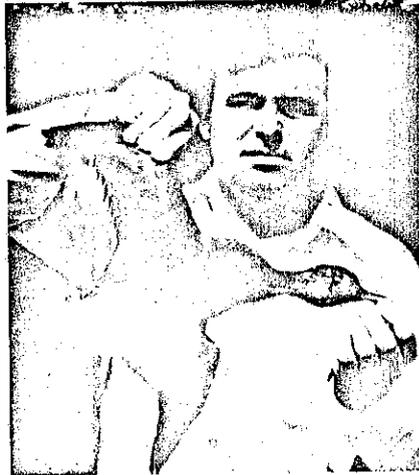
Peter Nilsa

Outdoorsman and International Shopper
 911 Walker / Houston, Texas 77002

Ducks Unlimited July-Aug. 1975 Vol. 39 No. 4 p. 6

Letters to the Editor

STRANGE DUCK



Dear Sirs:

On the morning of November 7, 1974 while hunting out of the Pearl River Rod & Gun Club in Southeast Louisiana, I took a most unusual duck. While at the time of the kill I did not know the exact identification, I did know it was something that I had never seen before. After several hours of research through some books, I arrived at the conclusion that it must be a Baikal Teal. I still did not realize the true rarity of this duck until a visit with Dr. George H. Lowery, Director of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Lowery positively identified the duck as a Baikal Teal (Please see letter below.). After some consideration I decided to donate the specimen to Dr. Lowery for the University Museum, where it may remain forever.

I hope this information may be worthy

of publication in a future edition of the Ducks Unlimited Magazine for all the members reading. Also I am enclosing a picture of the actual duck.

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on its superb publication, I only wish it came weekly!

Very truly yours,
 James E. Lee
 Biloxi, Mississippi

IN REPLY:

Dear Mr. Lee:

There is absolutely no question about the identification of your duck as a Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*). It is a sub-adult male and is now LSUMZ 80123. This specimen constitutes the first record of this species from Louisiana and the only one to my knowledge that has been obtained anywhere in the southeastern United States. There are very few records of the species anywhere in North America, even in Alaska where one might be expected to appear from time to time. The possibility exists that your bird may have been an escapee from a waterfowl collection, such as that found in some zoos but also in private collections. However, I know of no one in this part of the country who has had a Baikal Teal in captivity. The specimen itself showed no evidence of having been in captivity.

I appreciate beyond all words your donating the specimen to this Museum. The specimen, despite being exceedingly fat, made into a beautiful skin and now bears a label showing you as the collector.

Sincerely,
 George H. Lowery, Jr.
 Boyd Professor of Zoology and
 Director, Museum of Natural Science
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana



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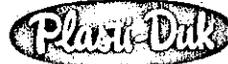


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White-tailed Kites near Sacramento.—The writer is gratified to report the presence of a pair of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) in Yolo County close to Sacramento, California, on June 7, 1932. The specific location was in jungles of willows and cottonwoods along the east side of the Yolo By-pass about two miles to the northward of the east end of the Yolo Causeway, or about one and one-half miles north of west from Lovdal Station. The latter point is not over four miles from the capitol building in Sacramento.

The birds flew out of the jungle of willows and cottonwood as I approached, and circled silently about and close above me for a period of fully ten minutes. They were closely observed with 6x binoculars, and every characteristic point of identification was carefully noted. After the period of aerial evolutions they glided off over the tall trees, and were lost to sight. The topography of the surrounding area is closely similar to typical kite nesting-habitats as described in many of the bird publications. I could not ascertain whether these birds were nesting, or were merely casual visitors.

Reference to the files of the Condor fails to show any records in recent years for this species anywhere in this general vicinity, so this record is thought worthy of publication.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Sacramento, California, July 10, 1932.*

Slight Extension of Breeding Range of Barn Swallow in Orange County.—The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*), formerly nesting only in certain places along the beaches in this section of California, has been gradually extending its breeding range inland during the last few years, using, for the most part, small bridges over drainage ditches as nesting sites.

On July 28, 1932, a brood of four young Barn Swallows left a nest built under a small road bridge about one mile northwest of Cypress, this location being about nine miles airline from the nearest point on the beach and in territory where the species has not nested before to my knowledge. The floor timbers of this bridge were only about two feet above the stagnant water, and the bridge is only about ten feet long. Neither the adults nor the young have been seen since the day the young left the nest, and a canvass of the other bridges within a radius of two miles failed to show any other birds of the same species.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, August 3, 1932.*

Status of the Baikal Teal in California.—Mr. James Moffitt has recently recorded the capture of a specimen of the Baikal Teal (*Nettion formosum*) in California, with expression of his belief that it was a wild bird (see Condor, XXXIV, 1932, p. 193). He may be right in his assumption, but the following facts suggest otherwise.

The species is frequently handled by San Francisco dealers in live birds. I first became familiar with it when I began to inspect imported wild birds for the United States Biological Survey in 1910; next to the Mandarin Duck it is the commonest water fowl in the live-bird market. To satisfy my curiosity I have checked up recent records of inspection and find that between January 1, 1928, and June 30, 1932, Mrs. Davidson and myself have recorded 527 Baikal Teal entered at San Francisco, as many as 136 birds being shipped in one lot. Of course the species had been coming in steadily for years prior to the dates given. Under the circumstances it is surprising that it has not turned up in the marshes before now.

Next to the Baikal Teal ranks the Falcate Teal (*Erethya falcata*) in point of numbers, another Asiatic species whose capture here should not be misinterpreted as the result of a wild bird's volitional movements. I have examined altogether 32 species of foreign wild ducks that have been brought here alive, some in considerable numbers. Any of these, shot in a wild state, I would certainly regard as escaped or released from captivity unless there was absolute proof to the contrary.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, July 19, 1932.*

Nesting of the Western Tanager in Solano County, California.—While following a footpath along Green Valley Creek in a shaded cañon five miles northwest of Cordelia, Solano County, California, on May 30, 1932, H. W. Carriger and I passed almost directly below a nest twelve feet up, near the tip of the first horizontal limb of an

Louisiana Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Baikal Teal
Committee Member's Name Van Remsen Date of Review 13 Feb. 1981

Circulation: First ; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

Once this species has established a pattern of
vagrancy to North America (besides Bering Sea Islands),
I will accept this as a wild bird. At present,
I prefer to be cautious.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee

Validation Form

Record Number 81-2 Species Baikal Teal (Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name Bruce Crider Date of Review 12 Feb 81

Circulation: First X; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable X
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

Even though there is no evidence of captivity in this specimen (LSUMZ 8D123), the commercial use of the species and its consequent presence in aviaries, zoos, parks, etc. is enough to render the origin of this bird questionable. The species is, however, not common in such situations, and further evidence of vagrancy to N. America of this species, would be cause enough for to reconsider.

I do recommend the inclusion of this species on a "hypothetical list," an entity not provided for in the BRC Bylaws.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Baikal Teal
(Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name BOFORD M. (MAC) MYERS III Date of Review 29 APRIL 1981

Circulation: First ✓; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable X
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

Although the bird might have been of wild origin,
my opinion is that this record must be regarded, ~~as~~
at best, as hypothetical

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Boikal Teal
(Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name Horace N. Jeter Date of Review 20 Oct 81

Circulation: First ✓; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable ✓
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

There seems to be too many "bird farms" raising all manner of wildfowl with much less than ideal control for such a record as this to be acceptable.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Baikal Teal
(Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name Harland D. Gullong Date of Review 18 May 1981

Circulation: First ✓; Second _____; Third _____.

Decision: Accept ✓
Reject, origin questionable _____
Reject, identification questionable _____

Comments (please type or print):

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Boikal Teal
(Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name PURRINGTON Date of Review 5/7/81

Circulation: First ✓; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable ✓
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

I would accept it on a hypothetical list only.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-1 Species Boikal Teal (Anas formosa)

Committee Member's Name JAMES R. STEWART Date of Review APRIL 20, 1981

Circulation: First ; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept
Reject, origin questionable
Reject, identification questionable

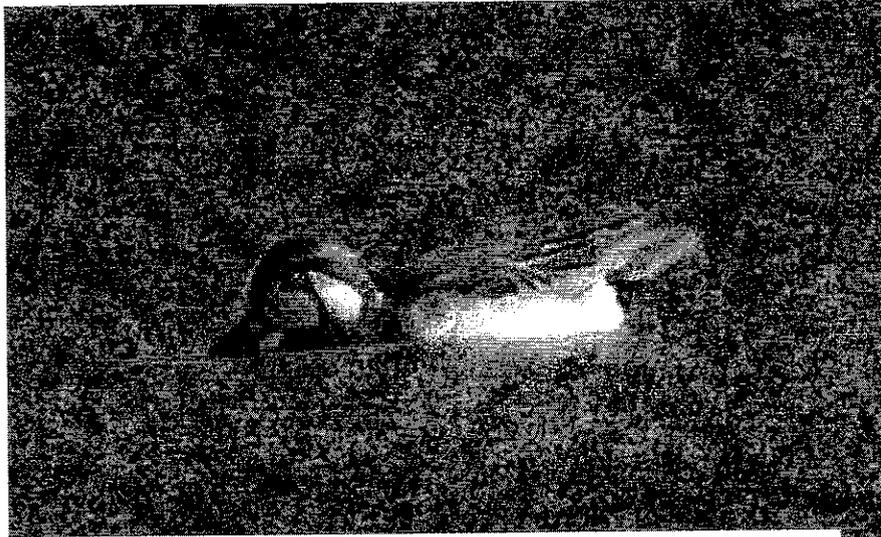
Comments (please type or print):

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*)

Mission Hills Sewage Treatment Plant, Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California

12 December 2005

Joseph Morlan



Photos © 12 December 2005 by Joseph Morlan. All rights reserved.

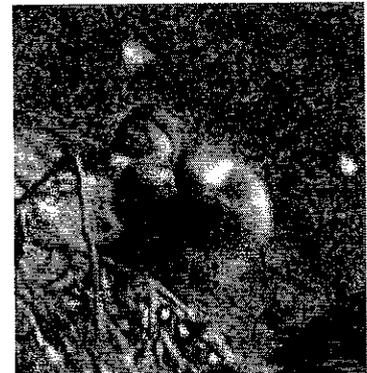
Today, I decided to drive down to Lompoc hoping to see the Baikal Teal found 10 December by Wes Fritz. I arrived at the dirt road that runs along the outside of the Mission Hills Sewer Plant about 10:30am. There I recognized Kaaren Perry who advised me that I could see the teal by standing on the hillside with the other people who had scopes trained on the bird. The Baikal Teal was swimming out in the open at the far end of the third pond when I got

to the viewing area. The light was good and I was able to watch the bird for about a half hour before it hauled out on the far shore. At first it stood on the shore feeding on the floating green algae. After disappearing for a while behind a female Blue-winged Teal, it eventually reappeared and worked its way up the embankment away from the other ducks. Most of the original observers left while I was there, but they were replaced by additional observers and I was able to show them the bird. I spent about 45 minutes with the bird, but much of the time was spent attempting photographs.



Description

I did not take notes at the time, but concentrated on photography instead. Photos were digiscoped from a considerable distance (approximately 1,000 feet), hand-held, with an Olympus D-550z / Nikon FieldScope 3 / 30XWA. I probably could have obtained better images by getting permission to enter the ponds, but I opted to stay outside the fence to avoid flushing the bird and disappointing arriving birders.



From memory and reference to photos I can say, that it was a small duck, about the size of Blue-winged/Cinnamon teal, but clearly smaller than adjacent Northern Shovelers. The head was boldly patterned. Its face was pale yellowish buff with a contrasting large dark eye with an irregular blackish eyering. A black line extended from the rear of the eye down the side of the face and looped under the head, connecting to the black chin and throat. A broad wedge-shaped iridescent green stripe began at the top of the eye and curved back, broadening at the nape and connecting across it. This green patch was bordered above by a crisp pale yellowish buff stripe, separating the green from the contrasting dark crown and forehead. The body was grayish with fine gray vermiculations on the sides. The long scapulars were rusty brown and curved down over the wing coverts. The tertials were mostly gray with black edges. The tail seemed rather

long, grayish centrally, but with rusty edging to the bases of the outer rectrices. The undertail coverts were black contrasting with a white flank patch. A small white stripe was visible extending down the side of the breast from the shoulder, similar to the more extensive white shoulder stripe found on male Green-winged Teal. The breast was brownish with a purple cast, recalling the coloration of American Wigeon. The bill was dark, outlined with black at the base and with a fairly broad black tip.

Photos taken by Jim Greaves on 10 December have been posted [here](#). Additional photos taken by Andrew Birch on 11 December are [here](#) and [here](#).

Discussion



Identification is relatively straightforward, although some hybrid duck combinations are known to produce birds with a superficial resemblance to Baikal Teal. Sibley (June 1994, *Birding*) discussed hybrid ducks (neither parent being a Baikal Teal) that can look like Baikal Teal. Click [here](#) for discussion on the ID Frontiers mailing list regarding such hybrids. An example of such a misidentified hybrid, is a claimed Baikal Teal from the Cayman Islands photographed [here](#). This bird is clearly a hybrid involving Northern Pintail and some other species. 'Hybrid Ducks' by Eric & Barry Gillham has several

photographs of drake hybrids, involving Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, both wigeons, Falcated Duck, Northern Pintail and Gadwall in various combinations, showing this 'bimaculated' pattern, which may be an ancestral trait. Similar birds have also been seen in the field in Europe and in California. Nevertheless, the combination of head pattern on this bird, combined with the long scapulars and body plumage is typical of true Baikal Teal. I see no evidence of hybrid origin for this individual.

Recent genetic studies by Johnson and Sorenson indicate that Baikal Teal is not closely related to any other *Anas* species (*The Auk* 116:792-805, 1999). King (*Birding World* 12:344, 1999) noted that *Anas* hybrids often show Baikal-like facial patterns, and speculated that this may be a reappearance of characters that are ancestral to the whole dabbling duck tribe.

The bird's plumage has been a matter of discussion. The bird is clearly a male, but it has more brown on the scapulars than would be expected of a full adult. Also the white shoulder stripe is incomplete, the supercilium is buffy instead of white, and the white trim along the lower border of the green face patch found in fully adult males is not evident. These features may be due to retained juvenal plumage or retained "eclipse" plumage. In this species, some juvenal plumage feathers are known to persist until the following summer (Madge & Burn 1988), while adults usually attain full plumage by late fall (Palmer 1976). Thus I think it is likely that this is a hatching year bird.

There are five previously accepted records of Baikal Teal in California, all specimens:

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa* (6,5,1,0)

Accepted

1.	29 Dec 46	Niland IMP	107-1983-8	(#MVZ)	
2.	12 Jan 74	Riverside RIV	108-1983-8	(#SBCM)	
3.	27 Nov 74	Honey L. LAS	109-1983-8	(#HSU)	
4.	4 Jan 75	Gray Lodge BUT	110-1983-8	(#HSU)	
5.	14 Oct 87	Tule L. NWR SIS/MOD			175-1988-13 (#private)

Not Accepted, natural occurrence questionable

Records from Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Ontario are usually regarded as escaped captives (AOU 1998, ABA 2002), although the natural provenience of some of these records has been argued. Records from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon are usually considered natural. The natural occurrence of records from Europe is difficult to assess.

Because of over-hunting and pesticides, the Baikal Teal underwent a serious population decline in past decades. By the 1980's Baikal Teal populations had plummeted to a total world world population estimated to be only 20,000 birds. However, recent conservation efforts have been extremely successful and upwards of 400,000 Baikal Teal now winter in Korea alone. More details of this comeback can be found at the [BirdsKorea web site](#). The Baikal Teal is now Korea's most common duck and I think its recent recovery greatly increases the odds of finding stray wild birds in North America or Europe.

Updates, additions and corrections

13 December

- More information on the discovery and additional photos by Dawn King taken 10 December have been posted on the [La Purisima Audubon Society](#) web site.
- Another 10 December photo by Brad Schram has been posted [here](#).
- A sight record of this species by Jim Livaudias 20 March 2004 from Lower Klamath NWR was mentioned in [NAB \(Spring 2004\)](#). Additional information was posted on Calbirds [here](#). As far as I know, no other details are available and this record has not been submitted.
- Full details with photos of an immature male Baikal Teal at Kauai, Hawaii Dec-Jan 2003 has been posted [here](#). This site includes much research on status in captivity as well as molt and aging.
- Detailed discussion and photos of a similar looking Baikal Teal at Minsmere are [here](#). This article includes a detailed critique of aging criteria and molt.
- The bird was still present this morning, but had apparently moved to the fourth pond.
- The bird was still present this afternoon on the 3rd and 7th ponds. A white collar below the green face patch was noted by Mike Rogers.

14 December

- Bird seen today and well photographed from inside the fence by Roger Millikan. Photo [here](#).

15 December

- Bird seen today. A flight photo by Brad Schram taken 10 December reveals the right rear toe is intact and not clipped. Right rear toe clipping before the age of six weeks is an approved methods of marking captive bred waterfowl intended for release or sale. Cf. [here](#). Bird is unbanded and wary.

16 December

- Baikal Teal still present.

17 December

- Baikal Teal not seen all day.

18-23 December

- Baikal Teal still present.

21 December

- Article published in the Santa Maria Times newspaper [here](#).

24 December 2005 - 8 January 2006

- Baikal Teal not seen.

9 January 2006

- Baikal Teal refound at the same place and photographed by Mary Beth Stowe. Full account with photos [here](#).

10 January 2006 - present

- No further reports.

First Circulation (of recirculation):

The following members accepted this record during the first circulation:

██████████ 8 February 2020. ACCEPT. Record involves an immature male, shot by a hunter at a wild location. The specimen shows no signs of having been in captivity. Date/year coincide with a general pattern of other records in the west. I have no problem with this bird being a wild vagrant.

██████████ 10 February 2020. Accept (Identification and Origin). Tentative, because it's a duck and I can not get a feel for how common this species is in captivity. Maybe someone has intel on this? Nevertheless, the bird showed no sign of captivity and the record coincided with an unusual burst of records in the western US in 1974-1975. Two of California's five accepted records were from fall-winter 1974-1975; a third accepted California record and Oregon's first accepted record occurred in January 1974.

██████████ 26 Jan 2020. ACCEPT. This record has intrigued me for a long time; the body of evidence, especially the 1974 California records, makes a compelling case for acceptance.

The following members accepted this record (origin hypothetical):

██████████ 5 January 2020. ACCEPT – ORIGIN HYPOTHETICAL. I suppose some concern of provenance still lingers so it is a perfect candidate for origin hypothetical because it could also be a wild bird and fits pattern with other accepted records from 1974.

The following members rejected this record on origin:

██████████ 19 January, 2020. Reject. Origin questionable. Not much way to tell what Lowery meant by "no signs of captivity" other than, I assume, the bird was not banded.

██████████ 20 January 2020. **Reject based on origin.** I think a wild origin for this bird is unlikely and prefer to take a conservative approach to accepting the record.

██████████ (4 Feb 2020): One thing that seems to lower the likelihood of a wild origin is the bit of information about the populations having declined to an all-time low in the early 80s, which means that they were likely similarly low in the 70s. If this is true, the source population would likely have been small enough not to be able to provide stragglers. It may be instructive to review other records from e.g., western US and Europe in that decade to see if there is any support to vagrants. It's obviously too late to see if there were private duck collections from which it may have escaped, but a lack of a leg band is noteworthy (would that have been common use in the 70s?). Until these concerns can be eased, I am inclined to REJECT on grounds of provenance.

██████████ 1 February 2020. **ACCEPT identification, origin questionable.** Although effort was made to eliminate the possibility of an escapee locally it is impossible to know where the bird came from.

██████████ 10 Feb 2020. ACCEPT ID, ORIGIN QUESTIONABLE. Has a pattern of vagrancy been established? The closest accepted record, as far as I can tell, is Arizona. Other questionable records come from Ontario, CO, OK, OH, PA, NJ, and NC. There are only 6 records from California, one of which was rejected. I found this overview of Baikal Teal vagrancy, published in 2014, helpful, which suggests a pattern of increased mainland U.S. reports from 1974/1975, but this doesn't match a lack of increased reports from Western Alaska at the same time. Could this be explained by some increase in captivity interest instead?

[https://books.google.com/books?id=-](https://books.google.com/books?id=-YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false)

[YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-](https://books.google.com/books?id=-YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false)

[HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-](https://books.google.com/books?id=-YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false)

[pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0](https://books.google.com/books?id=-YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false)

[QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=-YqGAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=Baikal+Teal+vagrancy+to+United+States&source=bl&ots=16c62c-HG1&sig=ACFU3U2TDn4q-pwoUxVncAqL_ZLj45WLgA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwid1K_nw8fnAhUngK0KHasOCxcQ6AEwGXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Baikal%20Teal%20vagrancy%20to%20United%20States&f=false)

[A possibility for diving into the specimen might be to consider an isotope analysis of feathers/tissues:](https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ee16/a32e2793e2de4b110f58a736d3b18c75171c.pdf)

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ee16/a32e2793e2de4b110f58a736d3b18c75171c.pdf>

Second Circulation (of recirculation):

The following members accepted this record (three specifying 'origin hypothetical') during the second circulation:

██████████ 1 APR 2020. ACCEPT. California and Oregon had 1974 records (although OR record and one CA record was from winter '73-'74), Alaska had a 1976 record. Roberson doesn't cast doubt on their provenance. Reeber says the species was "widely imported and frequent in captivity until the 1960s," and that it is "difficult to breed in captivity." He also states that the "the scarcity of captive breeding, along with its rather high value, make it less likely to escape from captivity than many other waterfowl species." I was able to find many sources selling Baikal Teal, but several mentioned difficulty in breeding them. The decline in numbers in the '60s and '70s might

have affected waterfowl collections if the source of the birds was importation of wild-caught birds. My accept/natural origin vote is based on the burst of records from the period of '73-'76, especially along the Pacific Coast where the species is accepted to some degree as a natural vagrant. A Louisiana record from the same period of an immature bird of a species uncommon in captivity, worth money, and said to be hard to breed, without clipped hallux, bands, and –obviously—clipped wings is intriguing.

██████████ (30 March 2020): After having viewed the specimen and the publication on other records from that time period, I am changing my vote to ACCEPT ID, and can accept it being a wild vagrant.

██████████ 30 March 2020. Accept. Although the idea of Origin Hypothetical has some appeal here, I'm sticking with wild origin given the specimen's condition (no evidence of captivity) and the pattern of vagrant occurrences described previously.

██████████ 9 March 2020. **ACCEPT origin hypothetical.** To me, it's a coin toss because it is a duck. RE ██████████'s concern about captivity – I don't think it was very common in captivity at that time – *it is NOW*. But the species was nonetheless held in captivity at that time. Also, pops were dropping during 60s-80s but have since rebounded – perhaps it wild rarity would result in fewer in captivity/ or at least entering the aviary trade also during that time frame.

<https://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/documents/BaikalTeal-RT-JF-b.pdf>

Analysis of feathers for isotopes would provide potential insight considering age/feathers of this individual.

██████████ 16 March 2020. **Accept identification, origin hypothetical.** Not sure that question of provenance can be resolved.

██████████ 3 April 2020. **ACCEPT ORIGIN-HYPOTHETICAL.** See previous comments. I'm downgrading to origin-hypothetical as a bit of a compromise but I believe there's a very high probability that the bird was of wild origin. See comments from ██████████ RE CA occurrences in fall-winters of 1973-1974 and 1974-1975. As far as I'm concerned, there was a brief pattern of vagrancy during that time period. There are plenty of examples of such brief patterns. Note that all those records were also hunter kills. I don't know if they were also all immature males (if escapes, then I would have expected more adult males). If wild, then we don't know the routes these birds took. But, if we measure straight line distance from, say, Icy Bay, AK to, say, Riverside County, CA, then it's about 2100 miles. It's another 1000 miles to SE LA, and what's another 1000 miles to a duck?

██████████ 9 Apr 2020. **ACCEPT ID, ORIGIN HYPOTHETICAL.** I think this is voting option is good compromise. Could be wild given the pattern of vagrancy to the western U.S. (but not Alaska), but I don't think it's safe to entirely rule out an escapee.

██████████ 27 March 2020. **ACCEPT Origin Hypothetical.** Sticking with my comments last round.

The following members rejected Origin:

██████████ 3 April, 2020. Accept ID. REJECT ORIGIN. I'm still going with rejecting on origin because this is a commonly purchased bird. And ██████████'s note about the smaller population is noteworthy. And I still don't know the specifics behind Lowery's note about it having no signs of captivity other than not having a band.