

WEST VIRGINIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Number: WVBRC 2023-12 Species: Cinnamon Teal – Preston Co

Vote (select only one) _X_ For State List _Hypothetical List _Against _Exotic

Reasons voting FOR the record: (*attach more pages if necessary*)

- CM1) It can be very difficult to distinguish between female-type ducks within the same genus. However, in this case, I believe the evidence does point to this bird being a female-type Cinnamon Teal. Plumage characteristics that differ from that of female-type Blue-winged Teal and suggest Cinnamon Teal include richer, warmer brown coloration overall; the rufous and cinnamon tinge to the lower breast; the bland, pale face with a huffy wash and relatively little contrasting features; the pencil-thin eye line that does not continue into the lores and fades away before reaching the nape; the pale creamy-yellow patch at the base of the bill; and a huffy throat. The most important field mark, however, that distinguishes this bird from Blue-winged Teal is the comparatively longer, spatulate bill that is a distinguishing feature of Cinnamon Teal. It could be argued that this bird could be a Blue-winged Teal with an unusual plumage pattern, but a Blue-winged Teal would never have such a large and spatulate bill.
- CM2) This small female teal fits the facial and bill field marks for a female Cinnamon Teal rather than a Blue-winged Teal. Bills between the two species are clearly different with the Cinnamon Teal being longer and, as noted in the record, more like a shoveler's bill. Photographic evidence provided shows clearly the long spatulate-like bill of a female Cinnamon Teal. In addition, the eyeline is thin and more closely resembles female Cinnamon Teal than female Blue-winged Teal, where the eyeline is thicker. Female Green-winged Teal, Mallard and N. Shoveler are appropriately eliminated by the report submitter.
- CM3) Description and pictures are diagnostic.
- CM4) Very good writeups from both parties. Not the best of photos but after getting some advice from a friend on juvenile CITE (which I have no experience with) I'm good for Cinnamon Teal in this case. One writeup stipulates "female type" and the other a juvenile male. I see a large spatulate bill of CITE and the photos show a stronger post ocular line and bigger eye arcs that can be present for juvenile CITE as opposed to older birds.
- CM5) Photographic evidence indicates it is a small teal, and the photos and description rule out GWTE. The preponderance of evidence leads me to conclude it is a Cinnamon Teal.
- CM6) Experienced observer provided extensive notes, including consultations with an expert, as well as photographs highlighting field marks.
- CM7) 1. I am voting for both submissions for Cinnamon Teal entered by David Daniels and Trip Bondi. Both came to an agreement by their personal research corporately and individually.
2. The photographs, detailed descriptions, previous experiences, and substantiation from a third party supported my decision to vote Cinnamon Teal be added to the WV State List.