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RECORDS OF THE GARGANEY IN KANSAS

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Figure 1. Garganey photographed on 23 April 1982 by Max C. Thompson at the Oxford sewage ponds, Sumner County, Kansas.

The first Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) record for Kansas was observed by Jay Newton, 8 km east of Newton, Harvey County. This drake was on East Lake on 29 March 1981 but flew before Newton could get confirmation from other observers. On 21 April 1982, Wallace Champeny found a single male Garganey on the municipal sewage ponds on the south edge of Oxford, Sumner County. Although this bird was near other ducks, it did not associate with them. This bird remained on the sewage ponds until 1 May. During this time it was observed by numerous birders and photographs were taken. The bird was in display plumage.

The Garganey has been reported from the United States and Canada several times in the past decade (American Ornithologists' Union, 1983, *Check-list of North American birds*, 6th edition). It was not recognized as a North American accidental until 1982 (Auk 99: 1cc-16cc). The first sightings were from Cape Hatteras in North Carolina in March 1957 (Chamberlain, 1957, Audubon Field Notes 11:334). Additional sightings have been made in Alberta, Alaska, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, British Columbia and California. On 15 May 1981, Klett (1982, Bull. Oklahoma Orni. Soc. 15:9-10) observed a male Garganey feeding with Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) at Foss Reservoir in Custer County. The Custer County record was substantiated by a photograph. Another Oklahoma sighting was seen in Roger Mills County on 2 May 1979 (Ross, 1982, Bull. Oklahoma Orni. Soc. 15:7).

The normal breeding range for this duck is in the Palearctic from Iceland to the Kamchatka Peninsula (American Ornithologists' Union, *ibid*). A few records from North America might be the result of escapes from zoos or aviaries. However, with the number of sightings from North America now in the literature, particularly from the western United States, there may be either a very small breeding population in North America or a small number of birds regularly migrating between the Palearctic and the North American continent.

Identification of the male Garganey is rather easy as can be seen by the accompanying photograph (Fig. 1). However, identification of females is difficult due to the similarity between it and the female Blue-winged Teal. Records of females should be verified with a specimen or be seen in company of a male in display plumage.

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Book Reviews

Bird Conservation: No. 1. Stanley A. Temple, editor. Univ. Wisconsin Press, 114 Murray St., Madison, WI 53715. 1983. \$12.95 paper.

This is a new annual publication by the United States Section of The International Council for Bird Preservation. Ornithological journals do not often publish management articles, while wildlife management journals prefer final reports on methods and program rather than status reports on continuing projects. It is therefore difficult to obtain information about on-going conservation projects on birds. This annual intends to fill this gap in the literature. The first issue emphasizes birds of prey with articles on the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and California Condor by people directly involved in the research and recovery projects. As will be the case in each future annual, there is a section, "Bird Conservation News and Updates", that reviews legislation, current research, and the status of a variety of species of concern, such as neotropical migrants, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, and parrots.

Many of the sources that members of the Kansas Ornithological Society could use to obtain up-to-date information on the status of threatened species are admittedly biased. While I find the accounts in *Audubon* interesting, I often wonder if the situation is as grim as the National Audubon Society would have me believe. *Bird Conservation* provides a more objective view of our concerns.

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SCANS Key to Birdwatching. Virginia C. Holmgren. Timber Press, P.O. Box 1631, Portland, OR 97075. 1983.

Since 1934, when the first *Field Guide* was published, Roger Tory Peterson's books have sold extremely well because of the excellent paintings and the ease of locating and identifying a bird or mammal, etc. The sequence in Peterson's bird books is by order and family — loons first and sparrows last in the book. Everyone who is half-way serious about birds knows this sequence.

Now we have *SCANS Key to Birdwatching*, by Virginia C. Holmgren. The heart of the book is a totally new method of bird identification in the field. The sequence in SCANS is this: look for size clues, then color clues, then action (behavior) clues, then listen for the bird's note. *S C A N* is size, color, action and note. The added *S* on SCANS is setting, or habitat: woods or open water, etc. The first thing the author does is point out three "measure birds", for size reference. They are House Sparrow (small), Robin (medium), and Pigeon (large).

SCANS works like this: the first section in the book is "small" and "brown", and this is indicated in the marginal guide. If you see a small bird that is brown, you use the margin key — similar to tabs — to locate the possible choices for small and brown. For all 200 birds referenced and described in the book, identification starts with size and color. Color sections are brown, grey, black, green, yellow, red, blue, and black and white, and these are abbreviated in the marginal guide. It is as simple as determining the size of the bird, its color, then its actions and voice. For each bird referenced, there is the following information: small map, descriptions of cap, bill, front, back, action/activity, note/voice, habitat description, a line drawing of the bird, and a "look-alike" list.

The "medium brown" section contains such species as waxwings, sparrows, thrashers and thrushes, and nighthawk. Unfortunately, warblers are not all in one place in the book. And, a mistake exists where the Saw-whet Owl is illustrated and described in the **medium** and **brown** section. Saw-whets are very small.

Another problem is that there is no order to count upon, and no meaningful cross-reference. Where does one go to look up owls? There is no owl section, but spread-out references in the **small**, **medium**, and **large** sections. In the warbler sections, confusion is multiplied.

The book contains eight color plates of paintings by the illustrator of the book, Florence M. Walker. The author, Virginia Holmgren, has written some 30 books plus many articles about birds and birdwatching. She is the author of "Bird Walk Through The Bible", and has for 20 years written a bird lore column in the Portland Oregonian newspaper.

The appendices of *SCANS Key to Birdwatching* are interesting. One of them discusses records, such as largest and smallest, fastest, farthest, most beautiful to see and hear, most unusual actions, and most honored. There is a discussion of the state birds of the United States. Missing is a category which lists birds by most sensitive, or most isolated and requiring the most pristine and undisturbed habitat. The section called references is excellent. It has many general references, identification guides listed, numerous references on attracting birds, plus information on pleasure reading, listening to records and tapes, and magazines. The author refers to the George M. Sutton book of 1980, *Bird Student*, an autobiography of an artist-naturalist.

The book also contains a list of birds by order and families, a section about Latin names for birds, a bird house construction guide, and index.

Because of the section on "inviting birds to your backyard", and because this book has opened the door to a unique bird identification system, *SCANS Key to Birdwatching* is must reading.

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