

## Specimens of Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) from the Central Valley of California

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We read with interest the recent summary of Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) reports from the Central Valley of California (King 2002). King summarized sight records, but made no mention of specimen records. Although observations, sketches and photos often provide adequate evidence of occurrence of vagrant or accidental birds, we believe that specimens still provide the best record of occurrence, particularly when dealing with subpopulations of diverse species or superspecies complexes or hard to identify species. With that in mind, we sought information about specimens of this form in major institutional collections.

A query of 13 collections (see Appendix) yielded only three specimens of male Eurasian Green-winged Teal collected in California. Two are held at Humboldt Museum of Natural History (HSU) and one at the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology at the University of California, Davis (WFB). One specimen (HSU-6572) was a male collected at Brainard Cut, north Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, on 6 January 1968. HSU-6572 was identified as belonging to the Aleutian population (*Anas c. nimia*) based on bill nail length (7.2 mm) and wing chord length (191 mm). Nail length appears to be the most reliable measurement to separate Aleutian birds from Eurasian birds (Michael Miller pers. comm.). There is a gradual cline in size among Green-winged Teal, with Aleutian birds being largest followed by Eurasian birds and then American birds. The bill nail length for Eurasian birds averages 6 mm while that of Aleutian birds averages 7 mm. However there is great overlap in all other measurements of all populations of Green-winged Teal (Madge and Burn 1988, Palmer 1976, Johnson 1995). The status of *A. c. nimia* as a valid subspecies remains questionable (Johnson 1995).

The first Central Valley specimen (HSU 6109) was collected at Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area, Butte County (Figure 1). The bird, a male, was shot by Joe Knarr, a sport hunter, on 18 December 1985. Examination of the skin and overall metrics, including bill nail, confirmed this bird was of the nominate form (*Anas c. crecca*) (Table 1). The second specimen (WFB-4112) was collected by Paul Mazzilli, a sport hunter, near Bolton Road, east side of Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Sutter County, on 18 January 1996. Mazzilli, and his hunting partner, Michael Miller, recognized that this bird was of the Eurasian population (Miller and Mazzilli 1996). They brought it to REC at the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, U. C. Davis, where it was prepared as a study skin (Figure 2). Measurements of the specimen confirmed it as being of the nominate form (Table 1).

Table 1. Measurements (in millimeters, except for weight) of Central Valley specimens of Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*anas crecca crecca*).

Specimen #	Total Length	Tail Length	Wing Chord	Culmen	Bill Nail	Wt (g)
HSU-6109	366	59	181	38	6.1	298
WFB-4112	392	72	185	35.8	6.0	425

REC also took the following measurements of WFB 4112 at the time of death: wing length 250; wing chord flat 193; bill-nares length 31.9; bill depth 16.4; diagonal tarsus 32.8; total tarsus 40.5. Measurements of left testis were width 4.8 and length 12.7. WFB 4112 represents the first confirmed record of a Eurasian Green-winged Teal in Sutter County (King 2002).

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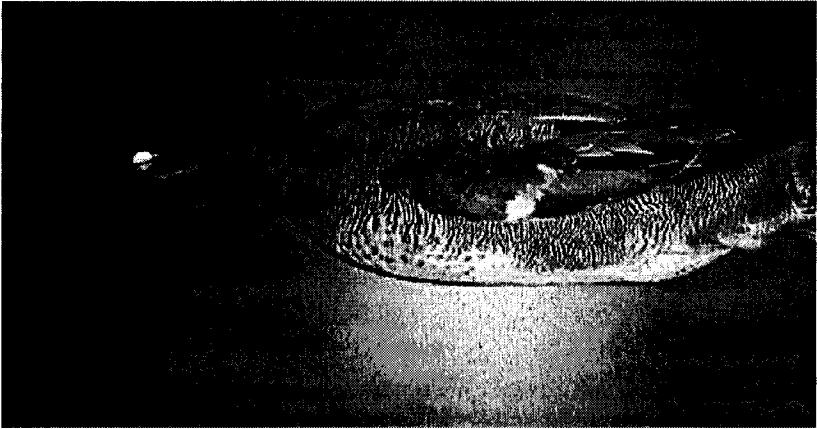


Figure 1. Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*anas crecca crecca*; specimen #HSU-6109) from Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area, Butte County, 18 December 1985.  
*Photo by Tamar Danufsky*

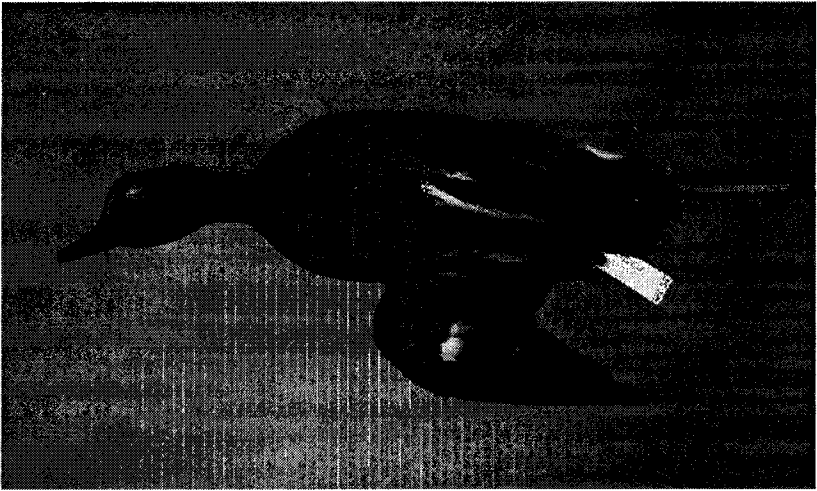


Figure 2. Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*anas crecca crecca*; specimen #WFB 4112) from Sutter National Wildlife Area, Sutter County, 18 January 1996.  
*Photo by Andrew Engilis, Jr.*

Appendix. We queried or visited the following collections in search of California specimens of Eurasian Green-winged Teal: Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology; Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; San Diego Natural History Museum; California State University (CSU), Sacramento; CSU, Chico; CSU, Stanislaus; Humboldt State University; California Academy of Sciences; American Museum of Natural History; U. S. National Museum; The Field Museum; The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture.