

**Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis*, first record for Ecuador**

On 28 December 2014, at 07h30, I found a male Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* on the northern shore of La Segua Marshes, west of Chone, prov. Manabí, western Ecuador (00°42'S 80°11'W; 10 m), among an estimated 5,000+ Blue-winged Teals *A. discors* and White-cheeked Pintails *A. bahamensis*. I watched the bird through a telescope for c.30 minutes at a distance of c.100 m. It was a male in almost complete breeding plumage and immediately identifiable by its mainly grey plumage, chestnut head and white vertical streak on the breast-sides. Common Teal *A. c. crecca* of Eurasia, which has never been recorded in South America<sup>2</sup>, is similar but lacks the white line on the underparts and also shows an obvious horizontal white wingbar at rest. Hybrids with *carolinensis* occur and show a mix of both features. Most Blue-winged Teals were still in non-breeding plumage, with some males starting to show the typical white half-moon between the bill and eye of breeding plumage. The Green-winged Teal was feeding in shallow water with about a dozen White-cheeked Pintails. As I approached, it moved c.50 m out into open water and photographs were obtained to document the record (Fig. 1).

The bird was seen next day by D. M. Brinkhuizen and J. Nilsson, but was searched for again in late January by other observers and



Figure 1. Male Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis*, La Segua Marshes, prov. Manabí, Ecuador, 28 December 2014 (Roger Ahlman)

not re-found. At the time, just prior to the wet season in western Ecuador, it was very dry and many smaller wetlands had dried out. Marshes around La Segua had also dried out, concentrating all of the ducks and shorebirds at the main lake. Also present were up to 15 Northern Shovelers *A. clypeata*, 35 Lesser Scaups *Aythya affinis* and two Caspian Terns *Sterna caspia*. The last two species have wintered at La Segua in small numbers in recent years, while Northern Shoveler has been observed in small flocks and singles at several sites in western Ecuador during the last decade, reflecting a growth in birdwatching activity but also increasing numbers as the species is observed at well-watched sites with greater frequency.

*A. c. carolinensis* is a widespread breeder in North America and winters mainly in the USA and Middle America<sup>1</sup> with

records from northern Colombia, French Guiana, Trinidad and Aruba<sup>2</sup>. This record is by far the southernmost in South America.

**References**

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2. Remsen, J. V., Areta, J. I., Cadena, C. D., Jaramillo, A., Nores, M., Pacheco, J. F., Pérez-Emán, J., Robbins, M. B., Stiles, F. G., Stotz, D. F. & Zimmer, K. J. (2015) A classification of the bird species of South America. <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.htm> (accessed 10 July 2015).

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