

General Field Notes

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POLICY STATEMENT ON EXOTIC WATERFOWL RECORDS

Reports of exotic waterfowl present a special problem. Waterfowl possess a great ability to traverse most geographic barriers, and wanderers do find their way far beyond their normal ranges. This is complicated, however, by the fact that exotic waterfowl are raised in this state by many aviculturalists, and escapes do occur. While most people pinion their birds to prevent flight, some do not; therefore, it is often impossible to determine whether a rare duck or goose is a wanderer from some far place or an escaped bird from some much closer collection of exotic waterfowl. Plumage and health conditions, while sometimes proving a bird to be an escape, can never prove one to be wild.

It is the practice of this editor to accept well documented records, such as the one below, but only after some delay to allow an effort to be made to determine whether or not the bird was an escape. It often takes some time for such information to surface. The publication of such a record does not mean that the bird has been accepted as a documented state record. It does make the information available to all. At times the publication of such a record in *Chat* may bring forth information that will help to determine the origin of the bird. In other cases subsequent observations may help to establish a trend that lends strength to the original record.

Such conditional acceptance in no way reflects unfavorably upon an individual who has made an observation and who has presented all of the facts at his disposal.—DEPT. ED.

Mandarin Duck in Eastern North Carolina

ROBERT P. HOLMES

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On 25 May 1972, I was shown a drake Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*) shot that day by James Boyd and B.H. Oates Jr. of New Bern, N.C. The identification of this species is so obvious that there is no need to belabor its description. I am not aware of a previous North Carolina record for this species. This individual was taken on a small woods pond off the Trent River in Craven County, N.C.

One consideration might be that this duck had escaped from some collection of pen-raised ducks. I do not believe this to be the case. The bird was reported to have flown