

# General Field Notes

**JAMES F. PARNELL, Department Editor**

Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Wilmington,  
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

**JULIAN R. HARRISON, Associate Editor**

Department of Biology, The College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401

## First Record of the Falcated Teal in North Carolina

STEVEN PLATANIA

North Carolina State Museum of Natural History  
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

Few specimens of the Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*) have been collected in North America outside of the coastal Islands of Alaska. Three have been taken in Alaska (Hanna 1920, Byrd et al. 1974) and one in Canada (Brooks 1932). Although sightings have been made in California and Virginia, no specimens of this Asiatic bird are known from the contiguous United States. It is interesting, therefore, to report an adult male Falcated Teal taken in the winter of 1974-75 from the Davis impoundment, Carteret County, N.C.

The bird was first observed at the Davis impoundment in December 1974, by Eugene Pond, who believed it to be in poor health because it had difficulty keeping the head and wings rigid. Upon returning to the site a few days later, Pond found its partially eaten carcass on the beach. It is probable that in its weakened condition the bird fell easy prey to a predator. The specimen is in the collection of the North Carolina State Museum (NCSM 4503).

Because the Falcated Teal is primarily an Arctic bird of the eastern hemisphere, the nature of this record is open to question. Although it is a handsome species and probably in demand by waterfowl fanciers, there is no indication that this specimen was a captive bird.

Scott and Cutler (1967) reported a sight record from Virginia, the only other record of the Falcated Teal from the east coast of the United States, and discussed the problems of deciding validity of exotic waterfowl reports. Parnell (1974) discussed the policy for accepting such reports for North Carolina. Proof of the authenticity of this species as a member of North Carolina's avifauna may never be obtained, and it appears best to assign the Falcated Teal to the state's hypothetical list in spite of the availability of a specimen.

### LITERATURE CITED

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[NOTE: This species can now be placed on the hypothetical list for North Carolina. —JFP]