

First record of Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* for Cuba

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* is one of the most widespread and numerous Eurasian ducks. It is also a regular winter visitor to coastal North America in small numbers with occasional records as far south as Mexico^{1,2}. There is just one record for South America, in northern Venezuela, in March 2002⁵. In the West Indies, *A. penelope* is a vagrant or casual visitor to the Bahamas, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Barbuda and Barbados^{1,3}. There is also an undocumented record of two on Bermuda in October 2006⁴.

On 14 March 2014, P. López Delgado was leading P. Garland, S. Smith, C. Viney and myself in the El Jado area, Cayo Coco, Cuba (22°26.026'N 78°20.242'W) in search of waterbirds, when, among a group of American Wigeon *A. americana* and Blue-winged Teal *A. discors*, first one adult male Eurasian Wigeon and then a second were found. The true significance of the record was

not immediately realised, so no photographs were taken, and on a return visit next day they could not be relocated.

Other than PLD, all of the other observers have many years of birdwatching experience and Eurasian Wigeon is a species they are extremely familiar with. Compared to American Wigeon, the rich rufous head and broad straw-coloured coronal-stripe are diagnostic of European Wigeon. Viewing conditions were good with bright sunlight and the birds were watched at a distance of <150 m using 10 × 42 binoculars and a 20 × 77 telescope for several minutes.

This is the first record of Eurasian Wigeon for Cuba.

References

1. Carboneras, C., Christie, D. A. & Kirwan, G. M. (2014) Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D. A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) *Handbook of the birds of the world Alive*. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/52862> on 28 March 2014).
2. Howell, S. N. G. & Webb, S. (1995) *A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Latta, S., Rimmer, C., Keith, A., Wiley, J., Raffaele, H., McFarland, K. & Fernandez, E. (2006) *Field guide to the birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
4. Norton, R. L., White, A. & Dobson, A. (eds.) (2006) West Indies & Bermuda. *N. Amer. Birds* 60: 156–159.
5. Williams, R. S. R. & Beadle, D. D. (2003) Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* in Venezuela: a new bird for South America. *Cotinga* 19: 71.

Richard D. E. Stott

E-mail: richarddestott@gmail.com.

Received 28 March 2014; final revision accepted 30 October 2014; published online 10 March 2015