

**From:** Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Submission No 189: Garganey, *Spatula querquedula*, submitted by Richard Baxter and Sue Lashko**

This submission related to an adult male Garganey, *Spatula querquedula*, observed on Saibai Island, Torres Strait, Queensland, on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. This Garganey was also seen by a number of observers that were present on Saibai Island at the time and all agree with the identification of the duck. The submission was supported by both a description of the Garganey and three photographs. The description of the Garganey included its small size compared to other ducks present such as the Grey Teal, *Anas gracilis*, a chocolate brown head and reddish brown neck and upper breast a pale belly in flight (seen in flight) and the long white curved eyebrow.

The observer separated the Garganey from other duck species present on the Saibai Island wetland including, Grey Teal, *Anas gracilis*, Pacific Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa*, and Radjah Shelduck, *Tadorna radjah*, by a combination of the small body size, head and neck and the presence of a conspicuous curved white eyebrow.

**The occurrence of Garganey in Queensland**

There has been a number of reports of Garganey from Queensland over the decades, which have been listed various secondary literature including the Atlas of Australian Birds (Blakers *et. al.* 1984) where Garganey were reported in Queensland during 1968, 1974 and 1976; the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (Higgins and Marchant 1990) with 1 bird at Weipa in July 1976 and 1 female at Cecil Plains on 26 September 1976. However, most of these have reports remained unsubstantiated to date.

One record, a bird seen at the Coombabah Treatment Work in November 1995 was submitted to the to the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee, BQ Case 33. However, there was not sufficient evidence provided for this record to be accepted by the voting committee.

At present there are only two previously accepted records of Garganey from Queensland, these being:

**Case 9**

4 – 5 birds observed at Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 17-18 March 1988,  
1 male observed at Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 15 – 18 February 1992,  
28 birds observed at Inverleigh Station near Burketown, 2 April 1990.

**Case 34**

single bird observed at Awonga Point Sewage Works, Weipa, 25 December 1995

**References**

**Blakers, M., S.J.J.F. Davies and P.N. Reilly, (1984).** *The Atlas of Australian Birds.* Carlton: Melbourne University Press.

**Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins (eds) 1990.** *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 1: Ratites to Ducks.* Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

The present case was unanimously accepted

**David Stewart**

**Chairperson**

**Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee**