

Northern Shoveler's biology is its spatulate bill, for which the shoveler was formerly known by the genus name *Spatula*.

CHRISTOPHER FICHEL

No. of priority blocks in which recorded

TOTAL 0 (0%)

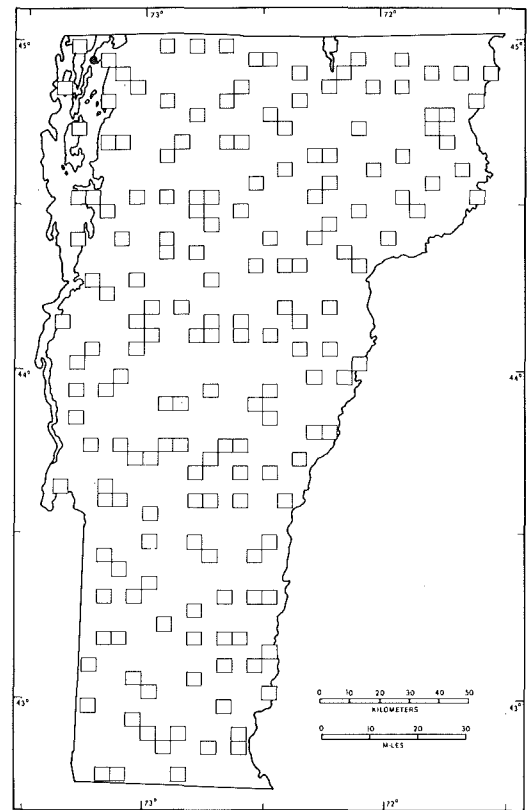
Possible breeding: 0 (0% of total)

Probable breeding: 0 (0% of total)

Confirmed breeding: 0 (0% of total)

Physiographic regions in which recorded

	no. of priority blocks	% of region's priority blocks	% of species' total priority blocks
Champlain Lowlands	0	0	0
Green Mountains	0	0	0
North Central	0	0	0
Northeast Highlands	0	0	0
East Central	0	0	0
Taconic Mountains	0	0	0
Eastern Foothills	0	0	0



American Wigeon

Anas americana

Expansion of the American Wigeon's breeding range southeastward from Manitoba and western Ontario appears to be responsible for irregular nesting in eastern Canada, New York, and Vermont. Major concentrations of breeding wigeons occur from Alaska and northwestern and north central Canada south to the northern Great Plains.

Most of the American Wigeon migration misses Vermont. Central Canadian breeders generally move southeastward through central New York (Bellrose 1980). An early fall migrant, this species is observed in Vermont from late August through late October. It returns to Vermont early in the spring, typically showing up about the second or third week of March. Few American Wigeons remain inland during the winter, instead preferring coastal marshes and estuaries.

Historically, the breeding of American Wigeons has been confirmed only once in Vermont—at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area on July 17, 1962. A hen and nine ducklings were discovered in a meadow of mixed grasses and forbs with scattered dogwoods and red cedars (Fuller and King 1964).

The sole Atlas Project record is a probable report (P for pair in suitable habitat) from Young Island, where on June 27, 1981 three widely scattered pairs of adults were discovered swimming just off the island in Lake Champlain. Young Island is uninhabited and overgrown with nettles and scrub (ASR, S. B. Laughlin and A. L. Gosnell).

Favored breeding habitats appear to include meadows near water, prairie potholes, large river deltas, and islands in lakes (For-

bush 1925; Munro 1949; Johnsgard 1975; Bellrose 1980). American Wigeons are less prone to nest in small, shallow-water marshes than other dabblers (Phillips 1923; Palmer 1976). Egg-laying dates range from mid May to mid June; a typical clutch consists of 8 to 10 eggs, which are incubated for 23 to 25 days (Munro 1949; Bellrose 1980). Nests are generally located on dry ground.

While feeding, American Wigeons are often found in the company of diving ducks and coots, from whom they pirate succulent

aquatic plant stems and foliage. Rather than steal from these birds, wigeons may simply scavenge the plants they have dislodged as the plants float to the water's surface.

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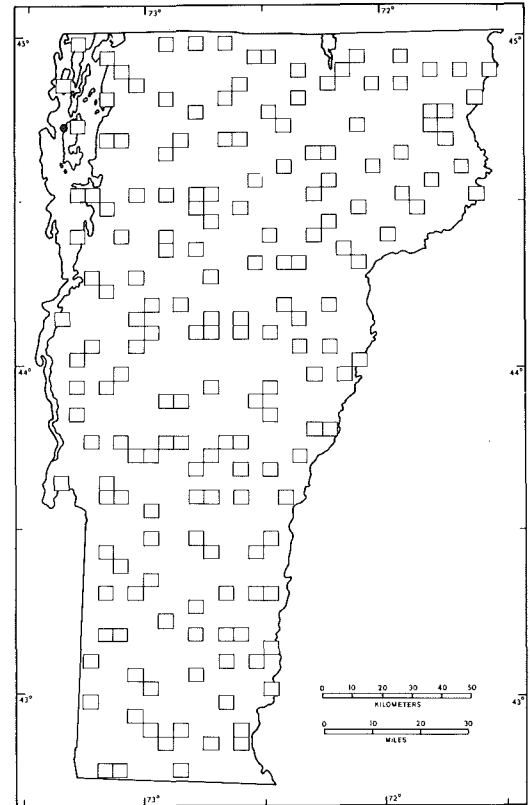
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Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Since the early 1930s, the number of breeding Ring-necked Ducks has been increasing in the Northeast. This increase has not followed the unidirectional, incremental pattern exhibited by other species at the edge of their range; instead, these ducks have been recorded breeding at scattered locations (Mendall 1958). The greatest number of Ring-necked Ducks occurs in the closed boreal forest zones of north central and northwestern Canada (Bellrose 1980).

Historical records for the Ring-neck's

presence in Vermont suggest that it has been a widely scattered breeder in the state since the late 1940s. The possibility of nesting pairs was first documented in 1949—a pair on Stiles Pond in Waterford on May 5, and a pair on South Bay, Lake Memphremagog on June 24 (Smith 1950a). Additional records from Coventry, presumably at South Bay or in the marshes of the Barton River, include two females with six young, July 25, 1965; a pair, May 28, 1966; and a pair with one duckling, August 28, 1966 (Eldred 1965;