

scandia. In 1963, on 5th December, one was caught and ringed in Malmö, southern Sweden and in 1967, from 23rd June to 20th July, a single male was singing near the town of Kotka on the southern coast of Finland. Both specimens were photographed.

KAURI MIKKOLA,
P. Rautatiek 13,
Helsinki 10, Finland.

14th March, 1969.

References:

Christiansson, S. and Gerell, R. 1966. Vithalsad sparv (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) ny art för Sverige. *Var Fagelvärld* 25, 1-4.
Hoogerwerf, A. and Tekke, M. J. 1969. The White-throated Sparrow in the Netherlands—the first record for continental Europe? *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 89 : 1 : 9-10.
Kanerva, J. 1967. The White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) seen for the first time in Finland (in Finnish with an English summary). *Ornis Fennica* 44, 108-109.

A Northern Pintail x Chiloe Wigeon hybrid

by Bryan L. Sage

Received 23rd October, 1968

Hybrids between the Northern Pintail *Anas a. acuta* L. and the Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix* Poeppig do not appear to be of very frequent occurrence. Annie P. Gray (1958) states that "Presumed hybrids have been reported". This statement is no doubt based on the records listed by Hopkinson (1935a & b) and Rothschild (1929). The latter record refers to a female hybrid. So far as I have been able to ascertain no descriptions of the plumage characters of either sex of these hybrids have been published.

The present paper describes a male hybrid from a drake Northern Pintail mated to a Chiloe Wigeon and prepared as a study skin in December 1964 when it was in full adult plumage. The specimen is now in the writer's collection together with a female of the same parentage. It is hoped to describe this female and that listed by Rothschild (*op. cit.*) in a later paper. Due to the widely differing geographical distribution of these two species there is no question of hybrids occurring in the wild. Nevertheless, intra-generic hybrids of this type, even though obtainable only under conditions of captivity, are worth study as they often exhibit characters of phylogenetic interest.

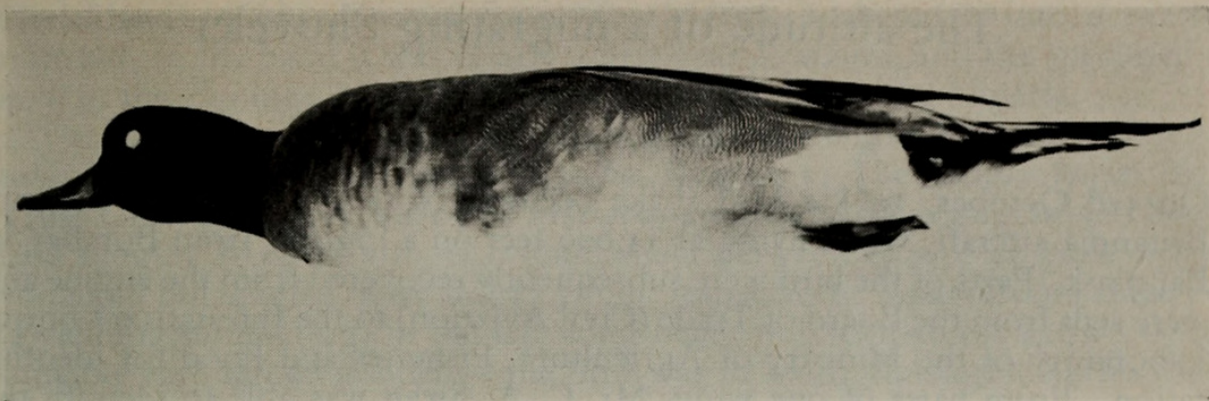
The plumage characters, measurements and colours of soft parts of the hybrid and the parental species of equivalent sex are shown below:

Plumage characters and measurements of Northern Pintail x Chiloe Wigeon male and parental species

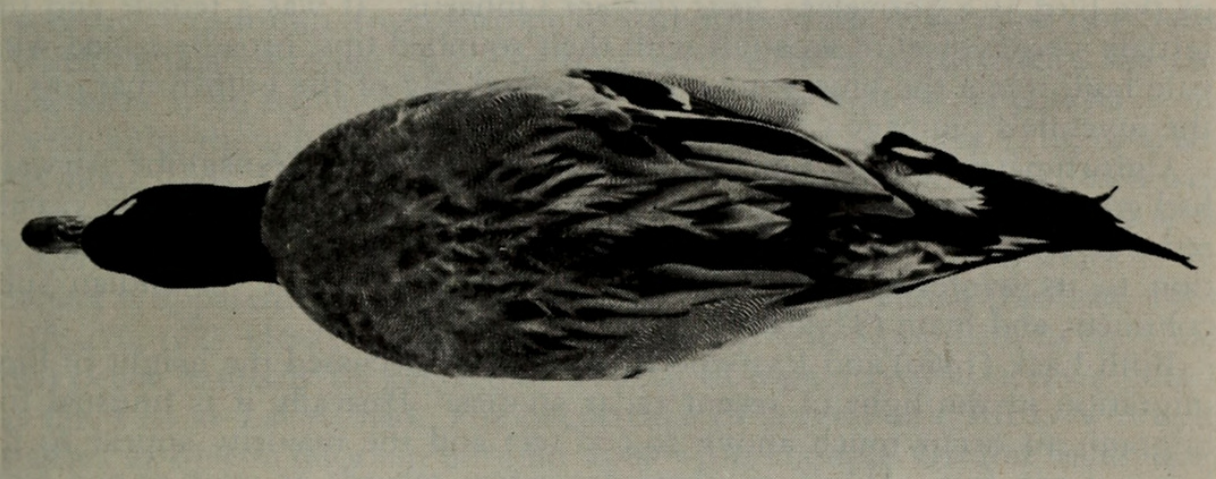
	Pintail	hybrid	Chiloe Wigeon
Head	Crown and nape dark black-brown with greenish and purple metallic reflections on nape; cheeks, chin, throat and sides of neck deep brown; broad white band from hind crown down each side of nape to breast.	Dark blackish-brown with marked broad metallic-green stripe from eyes to nape; faint purplish sheen on sides of neck and head.	Palish brown with forehead, lores and face whitish; narrow post-ocular greenish stripe.

	<i>Pintail</i>	<i>hybrid</i>	<i>Chiloe Wigeon</i>
Under-parts	Breast and belly white; lower belly and vent white finely freckled with dusky-grey; sides of breast and flanks vermiculated blackish and white.	White; upper breast and sides of breast pale mars brown (R.111/13); flanks vermiculated black and white.	Breast to sides white barred with dark brown; flanks suffused bright russet (R.111/16); remainder white.
Tail	Central rectrices black; next pair with black outer and grey inner webs; remainder with outer webs blackish-grey and inner paler grey-brown; outer feathers edged buff or white on outer webs; under tail-coverts black, longer ones bordered white; upper tail-coverts greyish with buff edging, outermost with black outer webs.	Black, outer feathers with pale edgings; upper tail-coverts vermiculated black and greyish-white; sides of body at base of tail and under tail-coverts, white.	Dark brown, outer feathers paler brown; upper tail-coverts whitish with traces of dark brown bars and russet suffusion; under tail-coverts white and russet.
Wing	Primaries sepia, paler on inner webs; secondaries sepia with broad whitish tips, outer feathers of speculum with outer webs metallic green; innermost feathers greyish; feathers bordering speculum with inner webs sepia and outer webs black.	Primaries medium-brown; median and greater wing-coverts pale grey; speculum black with green gloss, bordered above and below with cinnamon.	Primaries and secondaries medium-brown; median and greater coverts mainly whitish; speculum black with green gloss; tertiaries black bordered whitish, and iridescent.
Back and mantle	Mantle and upper scapulars finely vermiculated blackish-grey and white; rest of scapulars more coarsely vermiculated black and buff; long scapulars blackish bordered greyish; back and rump mouse-grey with some pale buffy freckling; cream patch at sides of rump.	Much as Pintail; pale russet colour of upper breast extending on to sides of mantle; feathers of back darkish brown with paler edges; rump finely vermiculated brown and grey; long scapulars dark grey-brown with paler edge to outer webs; whitish patch at sides of rump.	Blackish-brown to medium brown; feathers of mantle narrowly barred or edged white or buffish; back plain brown.
Bill	Blue-grey with black band on culmen.	Blue-grey, black along ridge of culmen; nail and forward half of cutting edge also black.	Slate-blue with black tip.
Culmen	48-59 mm.	44 mm.	34-35 mm.
Legs and feet	Grey	Pale blue-grey.	Grey
Irides	Brown	Dark red-brown.	Brown
Wing	254-287 mm.	282 mm.	255-275 mm.

Note: Figures in parentheses refer to colour plates in Ridgway's *Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists*, 1886.



Northern Pintail x Chiloe Wigeon, male showing vermiculated flanks and suffusion of colour on upper breast which extends on to mantle.



Dorsal view of hybrid showing well developed scapulars and tail feathers, and vermiculations of mantle and back.

From the above details it can be seen that all the characters of the hybrid can be found in the males of the parental species. In fact the hybrid can be said to be intermediate between the parental species with perhaps slightly more Pintail than Chiloe Wigeon characters. The white face of the Chiloe Wigeon has gone, as have the breast vermiculations of that species. The bright russet colour of the flanks of the Chiloe Wigeon are replaced by black and grey vermiculations, but this colour, reduced to pale russet (mars brown of Ridgway), occurs on the upper breast, sides of breast and upper mantle of the hybrid. The metallic green stripes from eyes to nape that are characteristic of the Chiloe Wigeon are present and unchanged in the hybrid. The most noticeable Pintail characters are the well developed scapulars and tail feathers, and the vermiculations on the flanks and dorsal surface. In measurements the hybrid is much closer to the Pintail than to the Chiloe Wigeon. There are no characters in the morphology of the hybrid than can be said to be of phylogenetic significance.

References:

- Gray, Annie P. 1958. *Bird Hybrids*, Farnham Royal.
 Hopkinson, E. 1935a. "Duck hybrids." *Avicult. Mag.* 4th Ser., 13: 78-86.
 — 1935b. "Duck-breeding records. Summary of records to date." *Ibid.* 4th Ser., 13: 280-286.
 Rothschild, Lord. 1929. "Exhibition of a large series of hybrid ducks." *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 49: 93-97.



Sage, Bryan L. 1969. "A NORTHERN PINTAIL X CHILOE WIGEON HYBRID."
Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 89, 69–71.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/126847>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/77280>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: British Ornithologists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.