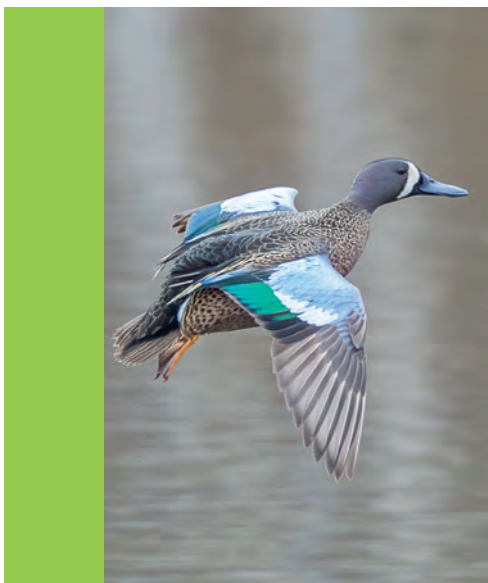


# Blue-winged Teal

Sarcelle à ailes bleues

*Anas discors*



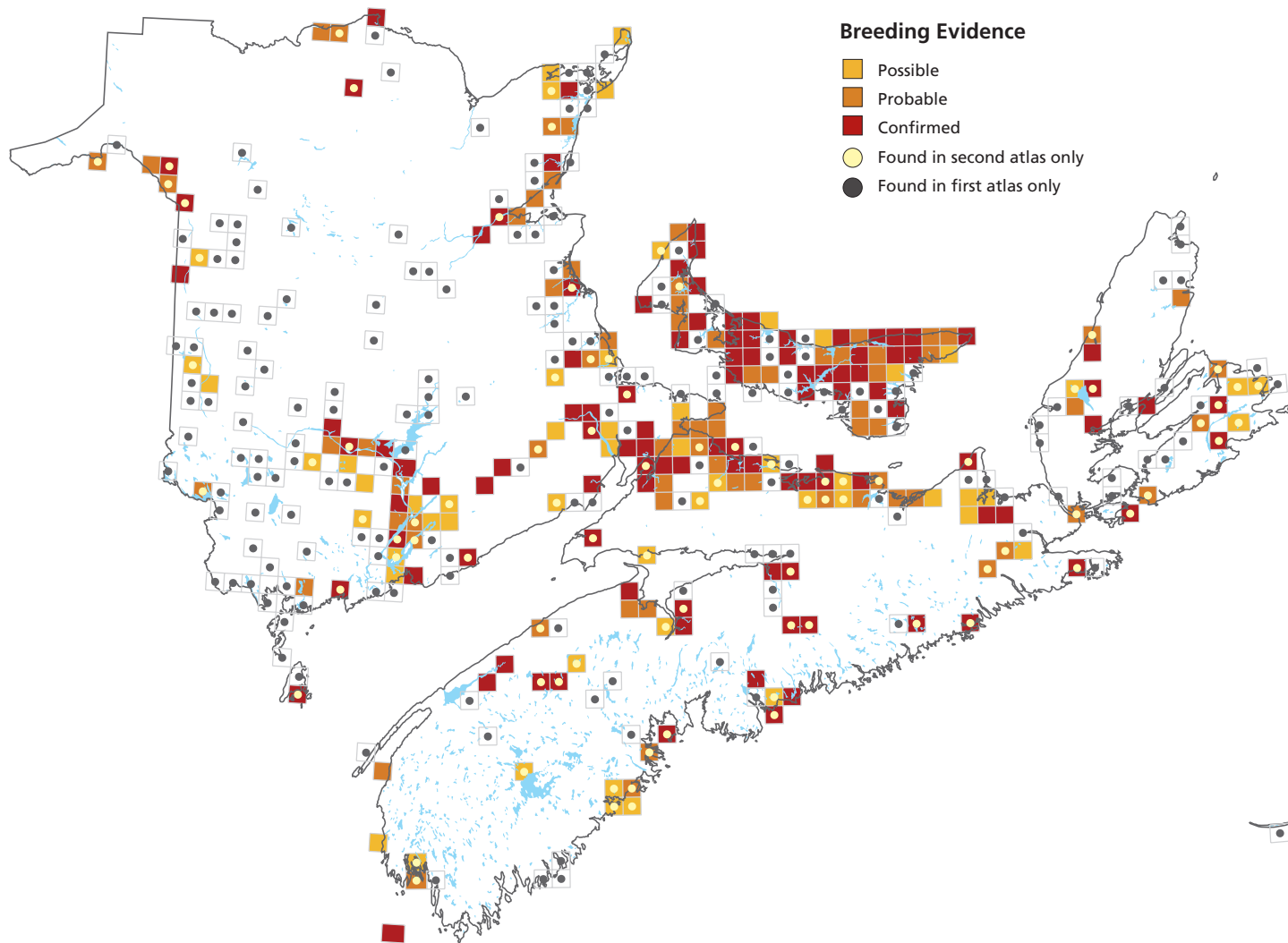
John Chardine

The powder-blue shoulder patches and the male's white-crescent-moon facial pattern provide vivid field marks for the aptly named Blue-winged Teal, in flight and on our region's marshes. The species breeds coast to coast, south from the Tundra through the Great Plains to the Gulf of Mexico. The Maritimes and southern Newfoundland are the northeastern extent of its range.

In the Maritimes, the Blue-winged Teal is a widespread but local breeder, with records heavily concentrated on PEI, in the lowlands along the Northumberland Strait, and along the Lower Saint John River Valley. The species is generally absent from heavily forested regions.

Detection on atlas point counts was insufficient for habitat analyses, but distribution mapping shows the species' strong affinity for regions where open agricultural habitats and rich marshes are relatively plentiful.

The probability of observation declined somewhat, most evidently on PEI and along the Saint John River Valley, where the species was undetected in many squares occupied in the first atlas. The BBS and OBBA have also noted declines in the teal's northeastern range. Causes of widespread decline are unclear, since several other ducks commonly associated



## Probability of Observation



with richer wetlands have significantly increased in the Maritimes with the creation of impoundments. Intensified competition from Mallards or other increasing waterfowl may play a role. Wintering and migration issues could be especially significant, given that the species migrates as far as South America, farther than any of our other breeding waterfowl.

—Sean Blaney



Margaret Campbell