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REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

To: Robert Gruenewald

From: Tom Kent, Field Reports Editor, Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Sometimes I am on the fence as to whether to include a bird sighting in the report or not, usually because I don't have enough information or the sighting is so unusual that I would like to check on it. I have a choice of making a decision or seeking more information. This form is an attempt to do the latter.

I would appreciate it if you would return this form in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible so that I can make alterations in the report before it is published. Thanks.

Record: White-winged Scoter

Significance: by far the largest number ever reported, date also late

Information requested:

- confirm date
- how well seen (viewing time, distance, view, other details)
- description of bird (as much as you can honestly remember)
- voice (heard?, what was heard?)
- can other observers also provide details?

Thanks for your report. It helps to have you pick out the most important sightings - as you did.

Are the Mute Swans wild? There are no confirmed nestings of "wild" birds in Iowa.

Ross's Goose late - were they with Swans?

Other birds on your list that would be of interest in terms of date, location + number: Herring + Green-winged Teal, Little Egret, Cowbird Wren + Brewer's Blackbird. Brewer's Blackbird, although expected, is difficult to ID + I do not accept records without details concerning the identification.

You may be one of the few Iowa birders that know what a Sand Mitten is. Where did you encounter this term? Perhaps you will continue to report. Tom Kent