

Grenon

brief details to support reported birds in Iowa

Dunlin, 29 October, 1989, IPL plant's north pond, Pottawattamie County, ca. 2 miles north of the county line.

grey-brown sandpiper much smaller than nearby Green-winged Teal. Bill dark, long, w/ droop at tip, back brown without lines or patterns, legs not seen, no facial marks, rump and wings dark in flight, mostly light beneath, breast not seen. Western Sandpiper eliminated by darkness, large size, large size of bill, and lack of patterning of back *from notes made immediately after sighting*

Black Scoter, 30 October, 1989, same location as above; also present was Babs Padelford

female/immature: dark brown large diving duck, larger than nearby Lesser Scaup, often held tail out behind out of water, bill large and dark, only mark a light, almost white cheek and throat patch, set off by dark cap and nape. Ruddy Duck eliminated by size, bill shape. *from notes made during the sighting*

Cattle Egret, 30 October, 1989, feedlot just east of I-29 at same location as above; also present was Babs Padelford

small heron, plumage all white, bill stout and orange, legs dark grey, feeding among cattle before leaving *from notes made during the sighting*

Brewer's Blackbirds, same date and location as Cattle Egret, 7 females, 2 males, among starlings, cowbirds, red-wingeds; also present was Babs Padelford

males: light yellow-white irises, glossy black plumage (purples and greens), tail rounded and of moderate length, as red-wingeds, not long as grackles' (memory), bill longer and thinner than cowbirds', bill not as long and thin as Rusty Blackbirds' (memory) nor as long as grackles'

females: dark grey-brown, slight light eye-line, dark eyes, bill longer, thinner than adjacent female cowbirds, similar to males' bills, bigger body than female cowbirds, darker, glossier wings and tail, lacking cowbirds' diffuse breast streaks and malar stripes *from notes made during the sighting*

White-winged Scoter, 6, 12, 19 November, 1989, ca. 10:30 a. m., south pond at Iowa Power and Light plant south of Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa; also present 12 November was Betty Grenon

large black duck, larger than nearby Hooded Mergansers; head long and low, with long dark bill; small white mark behind (and below?) eye, dusky light area between eye and bill; white speculum visible when bird at rest on water; dove frequently, partially opening wings during its dives. *from notes made 6 and 12 Nov.*

Oldsquaw, 6, 12, 19 November, 1989, ca. 9:30 a. m., north pond at Iowa Power and Light plant as above, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

large duck relative to Lesser Scaup; mostly dark brown above, with white vent and flanks and small marks on scapulars or back; head mostly white with dark brown cap, nape, and large mark below and behind eye on each side of the face; breast and throat dark brown; bill small, short; head round; bird dove frequently, remaining on the surface for only short periods; opened wings partially as it dove. principally from notes made on 6 Nov. during the sighting.

two Oldsquaw were seen on 19 November, in similar plumages

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