

ILLINOIS

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

I.O.R.C. RECORD NUMBER

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

- Unusual species; Unusual date; Unusual number;
 Unusual plumage; Unusual breeding record; Christmas Count record; Spring Count record;
 Breeding Census record; Other: _____

1. Species: White-winged Scoter.2. Number of birds: 1 Age/sex/plumage: Adult3. Date(s): Dec. 26, 19984. Location (incl. County): Mississippi River at Sabula, Iowa, Jackson County.5. Observers:
Your name: Brian L. Blevins Phone: (319) 324-7326Mailing address: 2003 East 12th StreetOthers agreeing with identification: Corey T. Blevins

Observers NOT agreeing with identification: _____

6. Physical description (size, shape, proportions; details of both color and pattern on the head, back, breast, undertail, wings, and tail; coloration of bill, eye, legs and feet) of details actually seen in the field:

This bird was picked out of a group of roughly 2,000 mallards. Everything was congregated on the open pocket of water with the rest of the river iced over. The very black shape was easy to pick out within the group of mallards. The white eye and cheek patch was very visible from our distance especially through the scope. White secondaries were observed when the bird raised up and flapped its wings while stretching. The bird was not quite as large as the largest Drake mallards. It was, however very squat and round especially while sleeping. It was much larger than the pair of Hooded Mergansers and the single Ruddy that were in the mess of ducks.

Species: White-winged Scoter Date seen: 12-26-98 Observer: Brian Blevins

7. Description of behavior: Slow & Sleeping
8. Description of vocalizations: NONE HEARD
9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): small open section of water with ice surrounding
10. Viewing conditions: Bright Sunny
Optical equipment (type, power): 10x40 Binocs 15-45X Scope
Distance / how measured? 50 meters , by eye
Time(s) of observation: 2:48 PM - 3:20 PM Total time of observation: 32 mins
Weather / sky conditions / relative position of sun:
Bright Sunny ; sun was behind us to the west we were looking east.
11. Previous experience with this and similar species:
We see quite a few of these during migration here on the Mississippi river. Its not super hard to find them in November or March through the second week of April if you work the big water. These are also quite common breeders in northern Saskatchewan were we fish every summer.
12. Reasons for eliminating other similar species and/or hybrids:
White cheek patch and White secondaries eliminate other scoters
13. Were photos obtained? NO By whom? _____ Attached? _____
14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?
NONE
15. How long after observation were field notes recorded? time was taken during obs.
16. How long after observation was this form completed? one week
17. Additional remarks:

Signed Brian L. Blevins Date Jan. 2, 1999