

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? SURF SCOTER How many? 1Location? DESOTO BEND NWRType of habitat? LAKEWhen? date(s): 11/22/86 time: 2:20 to 2:30 PM
12:15 to 12:35 PMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, IOWA CITYothers with you: CHARLES FULLER, JANE FULLERothers before or after you: REFUGE STAFF

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

THIS RATHER LARGE DUCK WAS SEEN AT VERY CLOSE RANGE. IT WAS GENERALLY A DARK GRAY-BROWN COLOR WITH THE WING DARKER THAN THE REST OF THE BODY AND NECK. IT SAT LOW ON THE WATER, AND THE ONLY SIZE COMPARISON WAS WITH A RUDDY DUCK IN THE AREA - AND IT WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGER. THE NECK WAS SHORT AND THE HEAD TOP ROUNDED. THE FOREHEAD SLOPED GREATLY TO THE ALSO SLOPING BILL. THE TOP OF THE BILL WAS IRREGULAR. ITS COLOR WAS GRAY BLUE WITH A YELLOW TIP, AND IT WAS NEARLY POINTED AT THE END. THE FACE HAD 2 WHITE SPOTS - ONE WHICH WAS AT BASE OF BILL AND WAS LONG IN THE VERTICAL DIMENSION, WHILE THE OTHER WAS BEHIND AND BELOW THE EYE AND WAS SLIGHTLY WIDER IN THE HORIZONTAL DIMENSION. THEIR SIZE AND SHAPE WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT ON THE TWO SIDES OF THE HEAD, THERE WAS NO LIGHT AREA ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD. (OVER)

Similar species and how eliminated:

WHITE WINGED SCOTER - NO WHITE WING AREA, AND THE WHITE SPOT ON FACE ~~BELOW BILL~~ WAS JUST BEHIND BILL WAS VERTICAL.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

CLEAR SKY - SUN MOSTLY TO BACK. 9X36 BINOCULARS + 20X SCOPE. SEEN AT 60-150 FEET IN CALM WATER.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

SEEN SEVERAL TIMES ON PACIFIC COAST

References and persons consulted before writing description: PETERSON AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.How long before field notes made? IMMED. this form completed? 1 1/2 DAYS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

THE BIRD WAS NOT SEEN FLYING. ITS
DIVING WAS DIFFERENT FROM MOST
DIVING DUCKS. IT FLAPPED ITS WINGS AS
IT BEGAN ITS DIVE.

When date(s): 11/22/64
Time: 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM
Who? your name and address: Jim Fuller, 6 Kensington Road, Town City
Others with you: CHARLES FULLER, JANE FULLER
Others before or after you: BECCA STONE

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This rather large duck was seen at very close range. It was generally a dark gray-brown color with the wing darker than the rest of the body and neck. It sat low on the water and the only size comparison was with a rubber duck in the area - and it was considerably larger. The neck was short and the head top rounded. The forehead sloped gently to the also sloping bill. The top of the bill was irregular. The bill was gray blue with a yellow tip and it was nearly pointed at the end. The face had a white patch - one which was at base of bill and was large in the vertical dimension, while the other was behind and below the eye and was slightly wider in the horizontal dimension. Their size and shape was a little different on the two sides of the head, there was no light area on the back of the head. (over)

State species and how identified:
LITTLE BLUE DUCK - NO WHITE WING AREA, AND THE
SUBTLE SPOT IN THE ~~WING AREA~~ JUST BEHIND BILL
AND NECK.
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:
Viewing conditions: five lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
CLEAR DAY - SUN NEARLY TO BACK. 3X3 BINOCLARS
+ 2X2 SCOPE. SEEN AT 60-120 FEET IN CALM WATER.
Previous experience with species and similar ones:
SEEN SEVERAL TIMES IN PACIFIC COAST
References and persons consulted before writing description: PETERSON AND
MILLER'S FIELD GUIDE
How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY. This form completed? 11/22/64