

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? SURF SCOTER (FEMALE) How many? 1Location? WEST OVERLOOK - CORALVILLE RESERVOIR - JOHNSON CO.Type of habitat? RESERVOIRWhen? date(s): 29 NOV., 1988 time: 7:45AM to 7:55AMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL ROAD, IOWA CITY

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

THE DUCK WAS OBSERVED DRIFTING AND PREENING 100-150 YARDS AWAY. NO OTHER WATERFOUL WERE PRESENT TO COMPARE, BUT IN GENERAL SIZE THE BIRD WAS LARGER THAN A TEAL AND SMALLER THAN A MALLARD. IT WAS PRETTY MUCH A UNIFORM DARK BROWN EXCEPT FOR THE HEAD. SIDE OF HEAD HAD TWO DISTINCT WHITE SPOTS, ONE BEHIND AND BELOW THE UNICHA WAS ROUND AND ONE DIRECTLY BEHIND BILL, WHICH WAS LESS WIDE THAN TAIL. BILL WAS UNIFORM GRAY. FOREHEAD SLOPED ALMOST AT SAME ANGLE AS BILL. TOP OF HEAD WAS A DARK BLACK BROWN AND THERE WAS A FAIRLY DEFINITE LIGHTER ~~BROWN~~ BROWN ON REST OF HEAD. WHEN BIRD RAISED WINGS WHILE PREENING, UNDERWINGS WERE A LIGHTER COLOR. AT TIMES, THERE WAS A STIFF TAIL, SOMEWHAT LIKE A RUDDY'S TAIL. AFTER ABOUT 10 MINUTES A FISHING BOAT CAME BY AND THE BIRD FLEW. THERE WAS NO WHITE WING PATCH, AS WITH A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.

Similar species and how eliminated: WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - NO WHITE WING PATCH EITHER ON WATER OR FLYING. BLACK SCOTER DOES NOT HAVE WHITE HEAD SPOTS

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
100-150 YARDS WITH KOWA TSU4 SCOPE (20-60X)  
OVERCAST SKIESPrevious experience with species and similar ones: SEEN SEVERAL ON WEST COAST AND 2 OTHERS IN IOWAReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NATL GEOGRAPHICHow long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 12 HOURS

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