

Loren & Babs Padelford  
1405 Little John Rd.  
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation of Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Location: Iowa Power and Light North Settling Pond,  
Pottawattamie County

Date: October 29, 1989 Time: 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Description of bird: A female or immature Black Scoter. Larger than Ring-necked ducks which were also present for comparison. The crown and nape of neck were dark gray to black. The bill was black, long, approximately the length of the head and slightly dished. It had a rounded forehead as opposed to the sloping forehead of the White-winged and Surf Scoters. Cheek, throat, and side of neck were off-white from just below the eye to where neck joins breast. Breast was all dark. Eye was dark colored and was surrounded by dark feathering. Back, flanks and wings were all uniformly dark grayish-brown. No white was visible in the wings in flight or at rest on the water.

Behavior of bird: Bird was observed sleeping, swimming with Ring-necked Ducks, and feeding by diving. Observed in flight for approximately thirty seconds when it flew from the east shore of the settling pond to the west shore approximately 50 yards from our vantage point and joined an Oldsquaw. The two birds were feeding in the same area by diving for 5 minutes at which time they both flew over to the east shore.

Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster II 25x60 spotting scope and Meade 40x90 spotting scope.

Distance and light conditions: Approximately 50 yards at closest to 150 yards at farthest distance. Overcast.

Other observers: None

Field guides consulted in the field: National Geographic Birds of North America.

This documentation is being written on October 29, 1989 from notes made in the field at time of sighting.

Babs Padelford  
Loren Padelford