

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1

Location? On the Mississippi River about 2 miles downstream from Montrose.

Type of habitat? _____

When? date(s): November 20 1983 time: 9:20 am to _____

Who? your name and address: Thomas J. Staudt

others with you: Carl Bendorf, Tom Kent

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.

An all black duck with the following details.

Longish dark bill, white smudges at base of bill.

The bird had a slanted forehead and white comma-shaped eye spot, head color black.

A white wing patch was evident as the bird sat on the water.

Not seen in flight.

Similar species and how eliminated:

No other scoter has a white-wing patch.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Overcast, no sun

20x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Two previous sightings within the past month.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Comments made with Bendorf and Kent. National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

How long before field notes made? during observation this form completed? same day

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