

Dave

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Surf Scoter, Juvenile (im) How many? 1

Location? I-280 Bridge, Davenport, IA.

Type of Habitat? M<sup>4</sup> River

When? date(s): 12/20/1992 time: 10:30 to 11:30

Who? your name and address: Leroy W Sowl - 2515 Crow Creek Rd, Bettendorf, IA 527

Others with you: Bob Bryant, Dan Dorrance

Others before or after you: ? no one to our knowledge

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A diver roughly the size of the mallards that it was flocked with. Bird dark <sup>gray-brown</sup> almost black, bill much larger than most divers. It had two white patches on the side of the head. Dove regularly. Viewed close at hand when it was with mallards as they lacked any real fear. It did not extend its wings but we watched it diving long enough to be certain there was no white on wings. The only other diver present was a Basic I ruddy duck. The ruddy duck was significantly smaller when the two divers came up side by side.

Similar species; how eliminated: other scoters

No white wing patch, front white facial patch had a vertical orientation and more bare bill was showing than on a white-wing.

It did not have the facial pattern of a black Scoter. Bill did not have the hump. Head not round like black scoter

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Distance 50-100 feet estimated, back lighted at first so that we could only tell it was a scoter. We were able to get a view from another site that gave us good light. used both binoculars and spotting scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am a waterfowl biologist, I conducted numerous waterfowl surveys in Alaska both aerial and surface. In areas where all three species were common

Bellrose

How long before field notes made? 1 mo this form completed? 3 weeks

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).