

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 1  
3. Location Bays Branch Guthrie Co IA  
4. Date: 21 Mar 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 7<sup>30</sup> to 7<sup>35</sup>

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

A scaup with rounded head, almost flat on top and no crest. The head was definitely larger than lesser scaup nearby - both from side and front. Bill appeared larger and closer to top of head. Bill nail distinct whereas I could barely see it on lesser. Head greenish from some angles. Sides pure white.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: swimming and diving

9. Habitat - general: harrow open lake

specific: near upper bridge at Bays Branch

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

lesser scaup

11. Distance (how measured)?

300 yards (est)

12. Optical equipment:

Bushnell scope with 20x B+L eyepiece

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

sun behind and to my left.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

previously documented in Iowa on several occasions

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

copied from notes taken immediately

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 21 Mar 1980 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240