

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 4 (2♂, 2♀)
 Location? Cedar Lake at Nashua, Chickasaw County, Iowa
 Type of habitat? Man-made 700 acre lake, with average depth of four ft.
 When? date(s): April 12 time: 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.
 Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas IA
 others with you: Lynn Barth Decorah IA
 others before or after you: NA

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.

Two male Greater Scaups associating with two apparently female Greater Scaup were studied in direct comparison at close range (100 ft) with a 45X telescope. The Greenish color on the head, larger size, round head, whitish sides were easily seen and directly compared with numerous Lesser Scaups. The Lesser Scaups appeared smaller, peaked-headed, and duller on sides than the Greater. Both of the females had a light colored area behind the eye that none of the female Lesser Scaup possessed. When the male Greater stretched the extensive amount of white in wings was strongly evident more so than the Lesser Scaups wing stripe.

Similar species and how eliminated: See Above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain: NA

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: ≈ 100 ft. Excellent light conditions. Bright sun at my back. as I viewed the bird, though there was light heat wave effect.
 Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen twice before.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? notes taken this form completed? 1 day

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Joe Schaufenbuel