

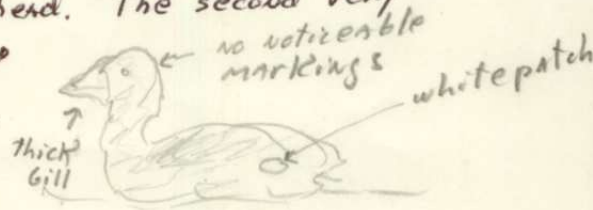
DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter (♀) How many? OneLocation? Little Wall Lake (near Jewell in S. Hamilton Co.) South end of lake near a jetty cuteropType of habitat? Dredged out open lake, approximately 1 mile long; 1/2-1 mile wide, 3-6' deepWhen? date(s): April 10, 1983 time: 3:00 PM to 3:20 PMWho? your name and address: George Brown, 922 Yuma Ave, Ames, IA. 50010others with you: NO ONE

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.

I first noticed this bird when scanning a large number of coots, scaups, canvasbacks, redheads, etc. near the south end of Little Wall Lake about 50 yards from the nearest shore. The bird was the same size as nearby canvasbacks but was bulkier in size of head and had a larger irregularly shaped bill, which was quite obvious. When observing, the bill was much thicker near the head than the bill of a canvasback or a redhead. The second very noticeable feature was the white wing patch. The rest of the bird was brown, darker on back and lighter on belly, although this was not a great difference. The bird was definitely not black.



I observed for several minutes (20) but could not distinguish ^{previous white} any marks on the face, ~~on~~ head. Concluded the bird was a female. During the time I observed, the bird was constantly diving, staying on the surface only a few seconds between dives. During this time, the bird diving was in the same vicinity, therefore easy to see during surfaces. I scanned the lake from different locations, but did not observe any other scoters. Similar species and how eliminated: ^{+ shape}

Although similar in size ^{+ shape} to canvasback and redhead, the bill and head were bulkier and the white wing patch was present. ^{obvious} No white marks on head and the presence of the white wing patch eliminated ^{+ common scoters} the surf. Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: ^{conditions} Slightly overcast, diffuse light, sun to my back, and a light wind. Observation of scoter was good. A spotting scope (Bushnell) with 20x-45x zoom was used. The distance was about 150 yards (an ^{estimate} estimate).

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I lived in Monterey, California, in 1980 and had ample opportunity to observe the bay ducks, particularly the surf & white-winged scoters.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NONE

How long before field notes made? one day this form completed? April 11, 1983

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