

White-winged Scoter - 2 Dec 1996 Cedar L - Linn Co

Using a 15x-60x zoom spotting scope set at 25x, I viewed this bird at approx. 50-60yds under a clear to partly cloudy sky.

When the bird was swimming, I quickly noted two white facial patches, one on the lores, and one behind the eye on the ear patch.

A small, white patch on the secondary feathers was also evident.

Overall plumage was dark, (black). Bill was dark.

After coming to the surface after a dive, the bird would preen and at times raise up and stretch its wings. When it would stretch and flap its wings, the white secondary feathers were quite prominent. Underside of the bird was light.

Watching the bird fly, I again observed the prominent white secondary feathers.

To the best of my knowledge, I was observing a male, first winter White-winged Scoter.

D. J. Oaker

2 MAR 1996

DAWKERT