

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup (Aythya marila) How many? 7 (3♂, 4♀)Location? Open pool on Mississippi River just South of Montrose, Lee Co., IAType of habitat? Open water on Mississippi RiverWhen? date(s): November 10, 1984 time: 8:20 a.m. to 8:28 a.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Cecil with meothers before or after you: None that I know of

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 noticed a small group of Scaup that stayed away from the other Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks. There were a lot of both Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks near-by. The 7 ducks in the small group appeared a little larger with a more robust look to them. Looking at them through the telescope the head appeared to have a greenish look to it on the male birds. The head on all 7 birds looked like it was flat headed compared to the Lesser Scaup nearby. One of the female birds had a lighter head than the other 3 females and had a whitish area behind the eye (auricular patch). No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Lesser Scaup does not have this flat headed look as this bird had, but a pointed head look. Lesser Scaup female does not have a whitish area behind its eye like one of these birds had. The bill was not banded as a Ring-necked Duck female would have been.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright overcast, seen from approx. 50-75 yards using 10x40 Leitz binoculars and Celestron C90 telescope at 33x.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen quite a few Greater Scaup and lots of Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? None made this form completed? 13 hours

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