

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species White Winged Scoter 2. Number: one
3. Location (upstream side of dam) Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County, Iowa

4. Date: 24 Nov 1985 5. Time Bird seen: 11:55 to 12:20

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 very dark chunky or heavy built duck: larger than the 30 Goldeneyes with it, and very much bulkier; appeared all black except brownish black on sides (below wings) with a white spot on the wing. Was fairly far away. Was never close enuf to see anything real definite about the bill (tho was close enuf that the white spot on the sides of the heads of the male Golden-eyes showed well).

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior: just swimming around.

9. Habitat - general:
specific:

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

Black Scoter & Surf Scoter don't have white wing patches.

11. Distance (how measured)?

12. Optical equipment:
20 x 80 binoculars

3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
overcast; bird to my North.

4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
never seen Scoter before near enuf to identify species.

5. Other observers:

6. Did the others agree with your identification?

7. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

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

A Field Guide to the Birds and Birds of North America.

I was never able to see the tiny white mark that the male White Wing Scoter is supposed to have; but I suppose under the lighting conditions the bird might have been a female, but I didn't see the whitish patches the female is supposed

9. How long after ^{to have either} observing this bird did you first write this description?

Notes while watching; this typed 1 hour later.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Address: 1120 Marston

Date: 24 Nov 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010