

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 10+
3. Location Guttenberg
4. Date: 3-23 + 3-24-79 5. Time Bird Seen: 5:30 PM to a few minutes
12:30 PM
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):
- 3-23 About 6 scaup with large round to flat topped heads and large bills seen in raft of hundreds of lesser scaup. Light rain + strong N. wind and gray sky.
- 3-24 Two scaup flying into wind at white wing stripes extending at least $\frac{1}{2}$ way out primaries, many lesser scaup flying at same time at short wing stripes confined to secondaries. One swimming scaup had noticeably whiter sides, round head and large bill. 3-24 birds had greater scaup head shapes. Bills also seemed longer. Black bill nail seen and possible longer than those of lesser scaup (also seen well)
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: large rafts + flying scaup
9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River
specific: In pool above dam 100-200 yards from shore
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Lesser scaup - see above
11. Distance (how measured)? 100-200 yards (est) 12. Optical equipment:
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Light rain and light snow - soft light
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Greater scaup seen very well 1 week before at Bettendorf
15. Other observers:
T. Shires N. Halami
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 6 hrs
- Signature: T. Shires Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 3-24-79 City, State: Iowa City IA