

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black scoter How many? 2 ♀'s (1 was collected)Location? Big Creek State Park - Polk Co.Type of habitat? lakeWhen? date(s): Nov. 12, 1986 time: 4:45 PM to 5:00 PMWho? your name and address: Bob Myers RR 2, Box 153 Perry Ia. 50220others with you: Steve Dinsmoreothers before or after you: Beth + Mark Proescholdt

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.

1. Med size - chunky duck
2. Overall color = charcoal gray to black - over whole body
3. Black bill + feet (foot color noted on dead bird)
4. No white in wings
5. Head showed definite white ^(whitish) area from bill back under eye thru side of head extending down into neck (includes cheek + throat)
6. Head profile showed a very rounded head (down to bill) not tapered or drawn out as in white-winged or surf scoter.

Similar species and how eliminated: Head shape and whitish cheek patch eliminate other scoters.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: One bird in fairly good light at about 150 yd. w/ 22X scope.One bird in hand. (SD collected)Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen black scoters once before (at LeClaire) - also ♀'sReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NONEHow long before field notes made? NONE MADE this form completed? SAME DAYMAIL TO: Spring
F. E. ~~Smith~~, Field Reports Editor, ~~RR 2, Box 153, Perry, IA 50220~~
Bob Myers, RR. 2, Box 153, Perry, IA 50220