

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Greater Scaup

How Many?2 females

Location?Big Creek State Park, Polk Co.

Habitat?swimming on large lake

Date?5 Oct 1987

Time?approx. 3:30-3:35 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA
50010

Others who saw bird:Roger Sedlacek, Ames

Description of bird:The size, shape, brown color, and white face identified the birds as female scaup. Both birds had smoothly rounded heads, not peaked like Lesser Scaup. One of the birds continually raised its wings to show a white stripe on the wing that extended onto the primaries. Both birds seemed to have larger, heavier bills than Lesser Scaup. The birds were not seen with Lesser Scaup, although we saw about twenty Lesser Scaup an hour earlier.

Similar species and how eliminated:Lesser Scaup eliminated above.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good with the sun mostly behind us. Estimated viewing distance was about 75 yards. We used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Greater and Lesser Scaup in Iowa, as well as many Greater Scaup in Massachusetts.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?1 day