

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup Female How many? 2Location? on the Mississippi River at the Linger Linger Rest area south of Montrose.Type of habitat? open water large inletWhen? date(s): November 20 1983 time: about 10:30 am to _____Who? your name and address: THOMAS J. STAUDTothers with you: Carl Bendorf, TOM KENT

others before or after you: _____

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.

Noticable larger than Lesser Scaup male and female.

The bird had a dark bill that appeared to come up onto the face. Face was white, there was a whitish ear smudge on head.

Head was rounded, but more accurately, smoothly curved. Lesser had rougher head lines - peaked and an abrupt cutoff at back of head. Greater's lines were smooth from base of bill, over crown, on over through nape.

In flight the Greater showed white on the upper surface of wing that extended from secondaries well into primaries. White on upper wing surface of Lesser Scaup was confined to secondaries only.

This bird was just north of the rest area, we watched other scaup females at the rest area that fit the above size and ^{rounded} head pattern. On one of these birds the extended white on upper surface of wing was noted. The other birds did not fly.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

overcast

about 25 yds away
when birds went into
flight.

20X SCOPE
7X BINOCULARS

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

~~two~~ previous sighting in Iowa of Greater Scaup. Numerous sightings of Lesser Scaup.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Carl Bendorf, TOM KENT

How long before field notes made? 5 hrs this form completed? right after field notes.

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