

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter (Melanitta fusca) How many? 1 male

Location? Oxbow near Lakeview area of DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Harrison Co., IA

Type of habitat? Open water of Oxbow of Missouri River

When? date(s): November 15, 1985 time: 10:30 am to 10:45 am

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

others with you: Tom Kent, Iowa City

others before or after you: several

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.

Tom first spotted this bird along the far shore of the oxbow. It was a black duck with a distinct small white area on its head. The bird came a little closer to us and eventually swam to within about 75 yards of us. The bird had a small white spot on its head near the eye. Its bill was a pinkish to orangish color. We saw the bird in the air one or two times and could see the white speculum of the secondaries very well. The rest of the bird was black; black head, neck, breast, sides, wings except the secondaries, back, upper and lower tail coverts and tail were all black.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other black duck has white secondaries as this bird had. The other scoter species have dark wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright overcast, good viewing conditions. Seen from approx. 75 yards at closest using Leitz 10X40 binoculars and Celestron C90 33X Telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen other White-winged Scoters in Iowa and other species of scoter in Iowa. Have seen many of all three scoters in Virginia.
References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 5 hrs. this form completed? 8 hrs.

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