

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number: one female
3. Location Hickory Grove Lake, Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 20 November 1985 5. Time Bird seen: 4:10 to 4:25
also 23 + 27 November
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):
Brown duck, much bigger than Ruddy, much bulkier than Canvasback, & bigger headed & bigger & longer beaked than Lesser Scaup male. (All these at one time or another within 3 feet of this duck). Head also much more rounded than male Lesser Scaup. ~~Thin~~ Flapped wings a few times on one occasion - wing stripe extending quite a long way down wing. Patch around base of beak not quite a white as usual - more buffy-white. *eye - yellow*
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: *frequently going under water. Could tell where it was going to come up by watching the bubbles on the surface.*
9. Habitat - general: lake
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Lesser Scaup - has ~~peaked~~ peaked head, smaller - less wide beak - this was by direct comparison with birds as close as 1/2 ft apart. Wing stripe shorter.
11. Distance (how measured)? 35 - 50 yds
12. Optical equipment:
20 x 80 binoculars
3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sun to my west; bird to my NW & then N. good light
4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw one on 17th at Saylorviller Res. Was able to compare with Lesser Scaup very
5. Other observers: close by. *this one*
6. Did the others agree with your identification?
7. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description
27 Nov was swimming with 2 ♀ Lesser Scaups - this bird was hardly any longer than the ♀ Lessers; but was heavier built, with thicker neck, bigger - much more rounded head, & larger bill. The head shape difference was quite obvious.
9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
notes immediately; typed this 1 1/2 hours later.

Bob Matzsch Address: 1120 Marston
Signature
Date: 20 Nov 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010