

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species White-winged Scoter 2. Number 1
3. Location Van Dueseldorp (sp) sand & gravel pit Colfax Ia.
4. Date: November 11, 1983 5. Time Bird Seen: 9:30 am to 9:40 am
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):
- bill dark gray to black with a warty knob at base of upper mandible.
Head: black with a white spot near or behind eye. Body all black.
A white wing spot could be seen at times.
In flight upper and lower surface of secondaries was white, all other parts of bird black.
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior:
9. Habitat - general: open area, ^{1/2} C shaped pond in active sand & gravel pit
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
surf scoter has all black wings, white spot on forehead & nape.
11. Distance (how measured)?
12. Optical equipment:
7x binoculars
20x scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
overcast to partly sunny - sun not a factor.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
2 previous sightings, the most recent on October 23, 1983, see enclosed documentation.
15. Other observers: Carl Bendorf, Tom Kent, Pete Petersen
16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America
and the new Masters Field Guide series published by the National Audubon Society.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Notes were taken at the scene of observation, description written about 3 hours later.
- Signature: Thomas J. Staudt Address: 931 N. Summit
- Date: November 11, 1983 City, State: Iowa city, Ia. 52240