

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 2 (♂)Location? Saylorville Dam, Polk Co., IowaType of habitat? Larger Reservoir, surrounded by wooded hills.When? date(s): Nov. 15, 1982 time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.Who? your name and address: Joseph P. Schaufenbuel, Ames Iowaothers with you: NAothers before or after you: NA

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.

Two large (seemingly larger, at the water line, than Common Merganser) ducks were observed resting with bill tucked under wing coverlets. With a 45x scope, the birds appeared dark brown in very bright sun light. In nearly 45 minutes of observation the scoters moved their heads ^{once} from the resting position revealing a dull orange bill. Otherwise the only mark noted was a tear-shaped white mark extending back from below the eye. The eye was white or very pale yellow. Both birds ^{were} never observed stretching or flapping their wings. Both were identical in appearance: uniformly dark brown.

Similar species and how eliminated: The uniform dark brown, ~~with~~ white eye and orange bill separates the birds from other two scoters.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Good. Sunny with sun behind me as I viewed the bird with 20x-45x telescope, at an estimated 500 yds.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen the White-winged Scoter twice before and the Black Scoter once before.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 1 week this form completed? 1 week

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