

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Black Scoter

How Many?1 male and 4 females or imm.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.-above dam

Habitat?swimming on large reservoir

Date?28 Oct 1987

Time?approx. 3:10-3:20 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA
50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The birds were swimming together and were all alone. The male was jet black except for a dull orange knob at the base of the upper mandible. The other birds were also entirely dark (but not black), except for a distinct white throat patch on each bird. These birds also lacked the knob on the bill. At least two of the birds were seen to have all dark wings.

Similar species and how eliminated:Other scoters eliminated by the dark wings and distinct throat patch. The orange knob on the male's bill eliminated other scoters.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were o.k., although I was looking almost directly into the sun. Estimated viewing distance was about 200 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen Black Scoters in both Iowa and Massachusetts.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 26 Nov 1987