

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? BLACK SCOTER How many? 6Location? DIAMOND LAKE, Montezuma IA (Pawnee Co.)Type of habitat? OPEN WATERWhen? date(s): 31 OCT time: 10:30 to noon
a.m.Who? your name and address: Edwin Miller RR1 Montezuma, IA 50171others with you: Darwin Koenig, Doug Phillips

others before or after you: _____

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.

Six were observed swimming and diving frequently on the open water of Diamond Lake. The light gray patches on the cheeks and extending partly down the neck was evident on 5 of the 6. The sixth bird was all dark, including the bill.

Noticed the light gray underbelly on one while it was preening also the black feet and legs.

The eyes on all six were dark.

A Pied-billed Grebe swam with them briefly and appeared much smaller than these ducks. Observed no white on the wings of any of these 6 ducks.

Similar species and how eliminated:

White-winged Scoter - no white on wing - or small patches of white markings on head
Ruddy duck - much larger than Ruddy - although did see one lift tail like a ruddy.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

Excellent lighting, we had spotting scopes to observe these ducks for a long period of time (60 minutes) They swam within 20 yards (estimated). (We took photos.)

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Observed Black Scoters along Atlantic Coast in Virginia - Observed White-winged Scoter at Diamond Lake last year.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Colben & Peterson Field Guides

How long before field notes made? 8 hours this form completed? 3 Nov. 1986

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