

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Surf Scoter

How Many? 1 female

Location? Polk City Wildlife Area, Polk Co.

Habitat? large body of water

Date? 11 Nov 1986

Time? 3:30-3:45 P.M.

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

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird: The bird was swimming with a small group of Bufflehead. It was about 1/3 larger than them and was a uniform dull brown except for two white spots on the face, one in front of and one behind the eye. When the bird flew a short distance once, I was able to see that the wings were dark. The bill was much larger and heavier looking than that of a Bufflehead.

Similar species and how eliminated: White-winged Scoter eliminated by lack of white wing patch. Black Scoter eliminated by bill shape and lack of a large white cheek patch.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Estimated viewing distance was 40-50 yards under excellent conditions. I used a Bushnell 20-45x scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen several Surf Scoters in Iowa including an individual at the same location last year.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made? none made

How long before this form was completed? 2 days