

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? BLACK SCOTER How many? 6  
 Location? DIAMOND LAKE COUNTY PARK, NW of MONTEZUMA, POWESHIEK COUNTY  
 Type of habitat? SHALLOW END OF THE LAKE  
 When? date(s): OCTOBER 31, 1986 time: 10:30 to 11:30  
 Who? your name and address: DOUGLAS PHILLIPS, RR #2, MONTEZUMA, IOWA  
 others with you: DARWIN KOENIG, ED MILLER  
 others before or after you: DARWIN KOENIG

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.

SIZE OF A LARGE DUCK WITH A SHORT NECK AND SHORT TAIL.  
 FIVE DUCKS WERE BASICALLY DARK COLORED (BLACK), WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LARGE LIGHT COLORED PATCH ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD AND THE UPPER NECK. THE BELLY IS ALSO LIGHTER THAN THE REST OF THE BODY. FEET AND LEGS WERE ALSO DARK. THESE WERE IDENTIFIED AS FEMALES.

ONE DUCK WAS ENTIRELY DARK, THIS WAS THE ONE WE SUSPECTED AS A POSSIBLE IMMATURE MALE.

THEY STAYED IN A TIGHT GROUP AND WOULD PERIODICALLY ~~BE~~ DIVE FROM THE SURFACE.

Similar species and how eliminated: WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. THIS WAS ELIMINATED BY THE SHAPE AND SIZE OF THE LIGHT PATCH ON THE SIDE OF HEAD.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: N/A

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

CLEAR DAY ; 30 YARDS, estimated ; 7x50 BINOCULARS

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I HAVE SEEN WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS AT A WATERFOWL CHECK STATION WHERE I WORKED IN S.W. IOWA.

References and persons consulted before writing description: BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, BY ROBBINS, BEAMAN, & ZIM

How long before field notes made? 8 HOURS this form completed? 56 HOURS

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