

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Greater Scaup, ♂ 2. Number: 1

3. Location Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co., about 1/2 mile above dam

4. Date: 3/22/1977 5. Time Bird seen: 4:20 to 4:35 PM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Chest black, head with greenish sheen, round, not pointed, neck thick; Bill heavy (contrast with nearby Lesser Scaups obvious as regards head shape and bill size); back gray, flank appears immaculate white; hind end black; wing stripe not seen.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: swimming in water, occasionally preening

9. Habitat - general: fresh water
specific: reservoir lake

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Lesser Scaup (several in same scope field): contrast in head shape, bill size, neck thickness clear; some of Lesser Scaups in vicinity had grayish smudged flanks rather than pure white of Greater Scaup

11. Distance (how measured)? est. 250-400 ft. 12. Optical equipment: 20-45x Bushnell Zoom Scope, CAR window mounted

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): very light overcast; sun-observer-bird angle 100-110°

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: seen 1973 off Whidbey Island, Washington; many in Chesapeake Bay, spring 1975; close study on Coralville Reservoir, Iowa 3/20/76

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Description independent of books.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hours

Signature: W. H. Salemi Address: R# 6

Date: 3/22/1977 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240