

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?White-winged Scoter

How Many?1 female

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat?large lake

Date?19 Oct 1986

Time?4:00-4:15 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:When I was scanning the reservoir, I noticed a large, dull brown bird sitting alone above the dam. On the swimming bird, the body, including back, sides, chest, and neck, were a dull brown. The head was also brown with light areas in front of and behind the eye. The bill was quite heavy(like a Canvasback) and dark. The bird raised its wings several times and I could see a white patch on the trailing edge of the outer secondaries.

Similar species and how eliminated:The combination of large size, brown body color, light patches on the cheek, and white wing patch eliminates all other ducks.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were o.k. Estimated viewing distance was 150 yards. I used a Bushnell 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several White-winged Scoters in Iowa(particularly this fall) and many in Massachusetts.

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?5 days