DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa How many? / probably an imm. What species? Surf Scoter Location? Polk City Wildlife Refuge, adjacent to Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County Type of habitat? large backwater area of revervoir time: 8:30 AM to 9:10 A.M. When? date(s): 24 Oct, 1985 Who?your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arhanses Dr. Ares IA 50010 others with you: 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. The uniform muddy-brown body color, large size as compared to Ruddy Pucks, and the large, heavy bill first brought my attention to the bird. The bird was several inches longer than a Ruddy Duch. lacked the white cheek, and had a much beavier bill than the Ruddy Ducks. The bird was also slimmer and suam lower in the water than the Ruddy Ducks. After a couple of minutes, the bird got up and flew about a hundred yords away, where it landed. In flight, the upperparts and wings were uniformly dark brown in color, while the belly was a murky white color. The bird flew lon to the water with feet wing beats, just like a diver should fly. After the bird landed, I moved up to within \$ 150 yards and viewed the bird summing with Cormorants and several Lesser Scaup. I now noticed the two white spots on each cheek, but no white on the back of the head. Thus, the bird would probably be an immature rather than a female. The bird was quite a bit smaller than the Cormonants and perhaps slightly larger than the scamp. The bill was black and no white on the wing was seen.

Similar species and how eliminated: when the bird raised it's wings several times.

Similar species and how eliminated by site Uniform dark wolor, lack of wing markings of the duchs diminated by site Uniform dark wolor, lack of white wing patches, Timm. or & Black water eliminated by white spots on cheek instead of white throat and by bill shape, and male scoters eliminated by Black, rather than brown, body color. No If yes, explain: Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Light was excellent with the sun behind me or at about 450 and a clear sky. Estimated viewing distance of 150 yards. I used a 13+1 ZOX spotting scope. Previous experience with species and similar ones: I saw Surf and white-unged Scotess in central Iona in 1978-79. 

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