

Species: Common Merganser, Mergus merganser

Date: 25 May 1992, approx. 10:30 a.m., seen again 30 May (late date)

Location: Sand Point on Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co., Iowa

Other Obs: Tom Kent, Bill Pinkston

Description: Large duck swimming to side and away from me on lake.

May have been injured. Body basically white. Large bright-red merganser bill. Dark head with smooth profile (no crests or plumes).

Conditions: Overcast, cool, calm. Observed several seconds from 100+ meters with 15x telescope, 30x telescope.

Similar Species: Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) smaller and thinner-billed, patterned chest and sides, crested head.

Previous Experience: At least 14 years' experience with both species in Texas, Arizona and Iowa.

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