

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1 ♀Location? By Saylorville Reservoir Dam, Polk Co., IowaType of habitat? Open Reservoir above dam.When? date(s): April 8, 1982 time: 4:00 to 4:35 pm.Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel St. Lucas, IA 52168others with you: NAothers before or after you: NA

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.

A large, brownish-colored duck about the size of a Canvasback. Bill was somewhat like Canvasback's in profile with a bump or ridge near the base. The duck was rather uniformly brown and nondescript with two diffused light areas on head. One spot was at base of upper mandible extending to the eye. The other circular shaped light area was slightly below and behind eye. The bird's eye was dark, as was the bill. The wing was dark with a distinct clean white speculum which was visible most distinctly when it stretched its wing. The speculum was partially visible when it held its wings folded. The bird swam rather low in water.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other large species of Duck female is so uniformly brown with a white speculum.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NAIf yes, explain: NAViewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Bird was observed with 7x35 binoculars and 15 to 45x zoom telescope in fairly good light as closely as 350 ft.Previous experience with species and similar ones: observed once beforeReferences and persons consulted before writing description: Robbin's and Peterson's Field GuidesHow long before field notes made? during sighting this form completed? 4 days

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Joe Schaufenbuel