

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 4 (all ♂'s)
 Location? Just north of Lock + Dam #9 on Mississippi Riv. north of Harper's Ferry, Iowa.
 Type of habitat? Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge
 When? date(s): Nov. 21, 1983 time: 10:30^{AM} to 10:35^{AM}
 Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers 1236 Sylvia Ave Waterloo, Iowa
 others with you: none
 others before or after you: none I know of

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 ducks, among many, were flushed by a imm. bald eagle who was apparently looking for breakfast. The greater scaups and some ring-necked ducks flew toward me and landed within 75 yd. They were obviously scaup and I used following marks to I.D. them as Greater.

1. Large size (bigger than lesser) - about size of the ring-necked ducks
2. Rounded heads - not peaked as in lessers
3. In good sunlight (for a change) showed green gloss on head (not purple)
4. White on sides of birds was more apparent than in lessers.
I'm really not sure if this is because the white area was larger or because it was brighter.
5. In flight these ducks showed much white in wing, but I'm not sure if it extended out on to primaries. It seemed like there was more white flashing than with lesser.

Similar species and how eliminated: Lesser Scaup - see above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

50-75 yd. ^{guess} ~~50~~ sunlight from my right really "lit" up the ducks

I used Bushnell 25x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a few Greater and many Lesser Scaup

References and persons consulted before writing description: I looked at the new NBS guide

How long before field notes made? made on spot this form completed? 5 days

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