

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES (LATE DATE)

Species: Oldsquaw, Clangula hyemalis

Date: 3 May 1992, midafternoon

Location: west end of Pleasant Creek Lake,
Linn Co., Iowa



Description (see illustration): Distance too great for detailed description. Size of nearby Lesser Scaup (Aythya affinis). Appeared to be a female in alternate plumage: Mostly white duck except for head and back; white face encircled by light brownish on top of head and hindneck; bold patch of very dark brown on side of upper neck; light bill; mottled light brownish back; tail dark.

Behavior: Flew in low from east with 6-8 Lesser Scaup. Remained with scaup on open water in middle of lake, occasionally diving. No voice heard.

Conditions: Mostly sunny, warm, windy. Observed 5 minutes or so from 100+ meters with Zeiss 10x40 and Selsi zoom 10x-30x60 binoculars.

Similar Species: Unmistakeable.

Previous Experience: One previous observation of a bird in similar plumage on the Upper Texas Coast (Texas City Dike) on 6 March 1984.

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