

Key Details for **Greater Scaup** observed at Swan Lake (Johnson Co.)
on April 1, 1994:

1. Diagnostic head shape clearly seen- head in profile peaked at the top of the forehead (front of the crown) rather than the crested look at the back of the crown seen in Lesser Scaup. This was a consistent appearance over a half-hour of observation.
2. One male which was scrutinized the longest showed a consistent green cast to the head iridescence. I know this is not supposed to be reliable but it was certainly consistent in this bird. Maybe head color can be somewhat diagnostic if studied in good light for a prolonged period. Many surrounding Lesser Scaup showed mostly purple iridescence with occasional greenish hues.
3. 5-10 % larger than nearby Lesser Scaup.
4. Bill larger, stouter, with wider black nail than on Lesser Scaup.
5. Not particularly whiter on sides than Lesser Scaup.
6. Wingstripes not observed.
7. Observed on the water only at ~50 meters with B & L 30x scope under sunny afternoon skies.

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