

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter - (Adult female) How many? 1

Location? West Okoboji lake, Dickinson County

Type of Habitat? Open Lake

When? date(s): 13 Dec, 1993 time: 3:45 PM to 3:55 PM

Who? your name and address: Douglas C. Harr, Box 65, Harlowood, IA. 51241

Others with you: Lee Schoenewe, Spencer, IA

Others before or after you: _____

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Moderately large duck (slightly larger than Lesser scaup seen with it),
Relatively "plump" (much like companion scaup). Overall dark (charcoal)
grey with very notable off-white throat, chin & cheek (extending to or
past the sides of neck) Head quite rounded, with no colored knobs at
bill's base (bill basically grey). Diving frequently.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Other scoters -- other species all have swollen base of bill; other female
scoters lack prominent ^{off} white on neck, cheeks, throat & chin
Female Redhead -- browner in overall color, light colors on throat, etc. not ~~prominent~~

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

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

Overcast sky with late afternoon light from west, while bird was viewed to
east. Distance estimated by both observers at 70-80 yards. Viewed with

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Kowa 20-60X Spotting Scope.

References and persons consulted before writing description: - used all three common field guides
while viewing. Description notes made later without further reference or assistance.

How long before field notes made? 1/2 hr. this form completed? 1/2 hr.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).