

Babs & Loren Padelford
1405 Little John Rd.
Bellevue, NE 68005
October 29, 1989

Documentation of Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Location: Iowa Power & Light North Settling Pond,
Pottawattamie Co., Iowa

Date: October 29, 1989 Time: 11:30 - 12:15

Description of Bird: Small duck, smaller than Redhead ducks and much smaller than Black Scoter, both present for direct comparison. Short, stubby, black bill about half the length of the head. The head was small and rounded with a relatively short neck. The top of the head and nape of neck were dark brown. The dark eye was surrounded by dingy white with a white stripe trailing down the side of the neck. Large dark brown patches below the ear. Chin was black. Foreneck was whitish with a black stripe from chin to breast. Breast was black from neck to water line. Belly was whitish with a light gray smudge in the middle of the belly. Scapulars were light brown and primaries dark brown to black. Tail was short and black in color and was visible above the water line at all times when the bird was resting on the water.

Behavior of Bird: Bird was swimming with Redhead and Ring-necked Ducks on the east side of the pond. It was observed preening for several minutes. It then flew around the pond and landed on the west side approx. 50 yards from our vantage point. It then fed for several minutes by diving. It was then joined by a Black Scoter and both were observed feeding together for about five minutes. The Oldsquaw sat low in the water.

Distance and light conditions: 50 yards to 150 yards.
Overcast.

Optical equipment used: Bushnell Spacemaster 25x60 spotting scope, Meade 40x90 spotting scope.

References used in the field: National Geographic, Birds of North America.

Other Observers: None.

This description written October 29, 1989 from notes taken in the field at time of observation.

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