

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 1

Location? Red Rock Reservoir area - (Marion Co.)

Type of habitat? A small farm pond on the south side of Red Rock

When? date(s): March 15, 1986 time: 2:50 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa

others with you: Phyllis Harris, Beth Proescholdt

others before or after you: none

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.

we were driving along gravel roads at Red Rock when we saw two male Scaup in a small farm pond right beside the road. The two Scaup appeared to be different. One Scaup had a rounded head and the sides of the head seemed to bulge out. The white on this scaup was very bright and sharp. when the sunlight came out from behind the clouds, this bird had a distinctive greenish sheen to the head. This first scaup appeared to be different from the other male scaup which had a more angular-looking head with a purplish sheen. I tried to flush the two scaup but they didn't want to fly, but finally they took off flying straight away from us. The Greater Scaup had a bold white wing stripe all the way to its wing tips on both secondaries and primaries. All three of us saw that well as it flew from 30 yards away. As I finally switched my gaze to the wing stripe of the other Scaup, it was too far away to tell for sure which species of scaup it was.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Lesser Scaup shows bold white stripe on secondaries only.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Partly sunny with sun behind us to our side, distances estimated, 8X30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen and studied Greater Scaup in Churchill and a few in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

IBL XLIX, 1979 on Greater Scaup; Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America; R. T. Peterson's Field Guide to Birds; Robbins' guide

How long before field notes made? 6 hours later this form completed? March 19, 1986

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