

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 3

3. Location Hooiser Creek, Ely road Johnson Co.

4. Date: 4-7-79 5. Time Bird Seen: 10⁴⁰ - 11¹⁰ to _____

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Noticed green-headed scaup feeding in flooded corn field near road. Head was relatively flat and rounded, bill appeared larger than other scaup. Could not see any difference in size of bill nail (well seen) or back color. There were probably 2 birds fitting this description, but they were diving frequently and hard to follow. Most of lesser scaup had dark, to purple heads but ~~some~~ appeared slightly green. The greater scaup, however, were quite green when seen in good light. Bill seems to insert high on forehead giving a flat top appearance to the head. Further along the road a male + female scaup diving together had the same head shape as described above. I flushed the birds twice but was unable to pick out the greater scaup - all

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard birds seen had short wing strokes, but there were hundreds of ducks to look at.

8. Description of behavior: Swimming & diving in flood cornfield

9. Habitat - general: Flood control reservoir at high water

specific: Flood corn field

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Lesser scaup

11. Distance (how measured)?

75 yards (est)

12. Optical equipment:

20x Bushnell scope with B&W eyepiece

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Clear, sun to side and slightly behind me

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Studied here in last month

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 hr 40 min

Signature: TH Kent Address: 241 Richards St

Date: 4-7-79 City, State: Iowa City, Iowa