

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-breasted Merganser How many? 1

Location? Babcock Access, Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Reservoir, shallow water

When? date(s): 1 Oct 1990 time: 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: none

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.

I saw a bird swimming in shallow water that appeared too small to be an immature cormorant. When I put my scope on it, I saw a thin orange-red bill with five teeth, thin head with darker feathers on top forming a crest at times. Underparts light, upper parts ~~plumage~~ dark flecked with white and white wing bar. The bird was wallowing low in the water. Later I saw it closer on the other side of the spit. I looked up the date and found it to be the 2nd earliest, hence these notes.

Similar species; how eliminated: The bill and general shape identified the bird as a merganser. The bill was much too long and big for a hooded. The head size, shape, and crest; white throat and breast and wing bar; and size are that of red-breasted rather than common merganser.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain:

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

sun behind, 20x scope, 50 yds (est)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: lots

References and persons consulted before writing description: NBS after writing notes

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

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