

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Oldsquaw (female) How many? 1

Location? Settling pond below Rathbun Lake Fish Hatchery

Type of Habitat? On water

When? date(s)? Dec. 15, 1984 time: 1:10 PM to 1:25 PM

Who? your name and address: Bill Heusinkveld, 840 S. Park, Centerville Iowa 54544

others with you: Ray Cummins, Mark Hoffman, Marj Heusinkveld, Bill Cummings, Jim Ellis and Paul Egeland

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.

Size: Considerably smaller than Canvassback which was nearby. About 15"

Shape: Rounded back. Neck was medium length. Did not have the long tail of a male Oldsquaw

Markings: Whitish head with spot on cheek, light underside, dark back, dark breast,

Similar species and how eliminated:

No similar species

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification?

No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Fog, distance estimated at about 100 yards, Spotting scopes 20 to 45 power zoom

Previous experience with this and similar species: I saw Oldsquaw twice previously on Rathbun Lake.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Looked at Birds of N.A. at time of sighting. Discussed with Ray Cummins.

How long before field notes made?

Made on spot
How long before this form completed?

1 Day