

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

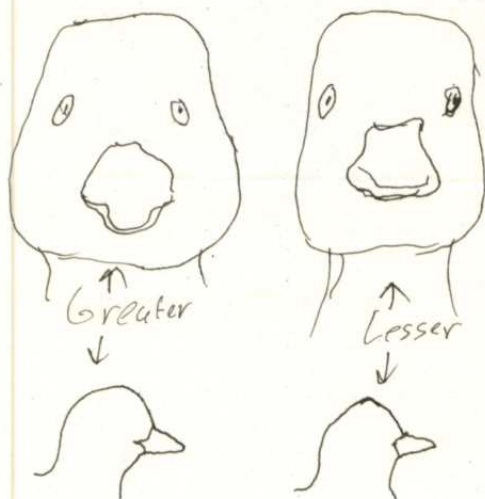
What species? Greater Scaup How many? 3♂ (+ 3♀?)Location? 3 mi East of Polk City, Polk Co. IowaType of habitat? Flooded corn field - almost 40 acres of water - near Large ReservoirWhen? date(s): April 27, 1983 time: 9:15 a.m. to 9:30Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel, Ames Iowa ^{924 Pammel Ct. 50010}others with you: NAothers before or after you: NA

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.

Scaup ducks compared directly with Lesser Scaups. When directly compared the ~~the~~ three were larger, whiter on back and side, and rounder-headed than the Lesser Scaup.

In frontal profile the Greater Scaups seemed much fatter or "chubby cheeked" than the Lesser. The wing stripe of the Greater Scaup was not seen.

The three (plus three probably ♀s) stayed in a loose flock and ~~mixed~~ with Lesser on a few occasions.

Similar species and how eliminated: see above.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
High cloudiness but otherwise good light. Sun in east with birds.
Southwest of me and viewed with 45X scope at an estimated 250 yds.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have observed the Greater scaup on several occasions

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? at sighting this form completed? 1 day

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Joe Schaufenbuel