

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 5
3. Location farm pond about 4.7 miles East of Hamburg
4. Date: sometime middle of November <sup>1979</sup> 5. Time Bird Seen: 4:00 p.m. going to the farm
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):

The Greater looked larger than the Lesser. Head of Greater was larger and rounder than the Lesser. I don't know if this is a field mark, but the Greater held their heads up higher and the Lesser seem to fold back. Beak larger on Greater. Their sides were so much whiter than the Lessers. Almost flashed in the sunlight. Color of heads were different, but I've been told by many birders that isn't a good field mark. Since neither species flew I could not see the speculums.

*no way to know what she saw TIC*

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: swimming in a group by themselves
9. Habitat - general: farm pond  
specific: small pond that is used by cattle, in pastureland
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Two Lesser Scaup, not heard, also swimming near by not with the Greater.
11. Distance (how measured)? about forty feet from farm road down into a depression
12. Optical equipment: 7x50 Navy binoculars.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Bright sunny day, sun on our left so I didn't have it in my eyes
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Seen on April 13th in same area, but only one, and seen a number of times with competent birders, Mrs. DeLong, Jim Lane, Dave Clapp, etc. in other times and habitats. First seen for me, in Lake Contchartrain, La. 1/2/67
15. Other observers:  
My husband driving to farm, but he is not a birder.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Robbins BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA and AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
immediately after seeing them.
- Signature: Jane E. Giescher Address: #1 Skyline Drive
- Date: April 9, 1980 City, State: Hamburg, Iowa