

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1Location? Coralville Reservoir Johnson Co.

Type of habitat? \_\_\_\_\_

When? date(s): October 23 1983 time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: Tom Staudt 931 N. Summit Iowa City

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: most of the people at the fall IOU convention

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.

A white-winged scoter was found on the Coralville Reservoir just upstream from the dam by Ross Silcock and a small group of IOU members Sunday morning October 23. After lunch many IOU members including myself went out in search of the bird. The bird was still there. I observed it for a short time at around 2:30 pm and again around 3:30 pm.

The bird was mallard sized, all black with a white speculum and a white spot behind the eye. The spot may have connected with the eye but I couldn't tell because of the distance. The white on the head was a round spot, not a vertical or horizontal streak.

The bill on the bird was dark when seen straight on, however, in profile the middle area of the bill appeared orangish. At the base of the upper mandible was a dark warty knob. The facial area in contact with the bill was slightly lighter than the rest of the head. The bird had a short neck. The wings were darker than the body.

During the 3:30 pm sighting the bird flew. Flight was very low over the water in a straight line. The wing beat was stiff, body bulky. The rear was small, more rounded or pointed, not squared off. Legs were not visible in flight. The white in the wings was confined to the speculum.

Similar species and how eliminated:  
 No other water fowl has the combination of white facial spot, white speculum and otherwise complete black appearance.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
 overcast, sun blocked out, gray day  
 7x binoculars  
 20x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen once before

References and persons consulted before writing description: prior to seeing the bird, while looking at the bird and after taking notes I consulted the Peterson and Robbins field guides. Many people were talked with during the observation. All persons consulted agreed the bird was a white-winged scoter.

How long before field notes made? during observations this form completed? 5 hrs

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