

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1Location? Union Grove State Park - (Tama Co.)Type of habitat? Small Lake with brush and weeds along edges on north endWhen? date(s): NOV. 10, 1986 time: 11:10 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: noneothers before or after you: Beth Proescholdt, Phyllis Harris, Ramona Sommerlot

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 brownish duck was swimming with five female Hooded Mergansers. This duck had a round white spot behind its eye and an oval white spot between its eye and bill. It had a white spot or patch on its flank that showed all the time. As it was swimming away from me, white was showing on both sides at one time where the white wing patch is located. This was a dark brownish duck with a dark bill.

Similar species and how eliminated: An immature Surf Scoter lacks the distinctive white wing patch.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Partly sunny with sun filtering through clouds. I had good visibility. I saw it 50-60 yards away at first, then 40 yards away, and last about 30 yards away. 8X30 Binoculars. Distances estimated.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen some immature Scoters (and many adults outside Iowa).

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, R.T. Peterson's field guide.

How long before field notes made? 1 hour later this form completed? NOV. 18, 1986

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