

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup - *Anas marila* How many? 2 ♂ + ♀Location? Lakin Slough (Luther Co.)Type of habitat? Cattail marsh - open water in centerWhen? date(s): April 16, 1985 time: 6:30pm to 6:40pmWho? your name and address: Bob Myers, R.R. 2, Box 153, Perry, Iowa 50220

others with you: _____

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I have always been very conservative in calling Greater scaups from Lesser as many factors can influence how you see a round and greenish head as compared to a peaked + purple head. These two ducks were obviously scaups. Probably only a ring-necked duck could be confused and these birds had ~~no~~ white ring on bill and the ♂ had light back. Through the 25x scope the heads appeared to be quite rounded over the crown (not peaked) and the ♂ did have a greenish gloss to the head. The clincher for me was the ♀. She had a very definite whitish ear patch. I had not observed this before and I don't believe Lesser females show it. These three marks had me so convinced that I did not attempt to flush the birds to try to observe the extent of the wing stripe.

Similar species and how eliminated: The round crowned greenish head on male and whitish ear patch on female eliminated the Lesser scaup.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? I was alone

If yes, explain:

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

It was a clear afternoon, I was facing N with sun to my right. Good light to see greenish tint on ducks' head. Distance = approx 50-60 yds. (by eye) 10x binoculars + 25x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am very familiar with Lesser scaup and always seen them looking for Greater. I have seen Greater before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? mentally on target this form completed? April 22

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