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DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter How many? 1
Location? Miss. River along S. Concord at corner Capello Ave, Des Moines
Type of Habitat? Miss. River near outlet of sewage treatment plant
When? date(s): Dec 20, 1997 time: 12:00 noon to 12:30 P.M.
Who? your name and address: Bob Bryant 31555 52nd Ave. Dixon IA. 52745
Others with you: Dan Dorrance, Leroy Soul

Others before or after you: none
info dictated by phone to Pete Petersen

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Larger, dark duck swimming & diving in river. Flapped wings once with no white ^{speculum} seen. Body very dark grey, head dark grey on top & back of neck, sides of head, throat & snout & neck very pale grey. Bill dark, narrow, eye dark.

Similar species; how eliminated: Ruddy Duck - smaller, wide bill, one was nearby for a while for comparison.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Sun to side, closest distance 30 m, 22x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Familiar with Ruddy Duck, first observed of Scoter

References and persons consulted before writing description: Golden Guide (Robbins) Geo guide, talked to Pete Petersen & Kelly McKay

How long before field notes made? 5 hrs, this form completed? 3 days

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).