

March 5, 1981

3/9/81 ✓
BRAY
pm 3/6

Dear Tom,

I hope this report will not be late, but I did want to send you a few notes on the Greater Scaup.

On February 25, Mr. B.J. Rose spotted a Greater Scaup on Boystown Lake in Omaha. This bird was subsequently seen by many observers and all field marks noted.

On Febr. 26, B.J. saw a scaup at the Settling Ponds that he felt was possibly also a Greater Scaup. However, it was a good distance away and light was poor. On February 28, Loren and Babs Padelford saw six scaup there, all with round heads and very white sides. B.J. saw them the next day but on both days light was poor and the birds distant.

— Today (March 5) Babs Padelford and I went to the settling Pond and walked to within 200' of the ducks. With 25x Bushnell scopes and sunshine for a change, the broad, untapered bill and rounded heads were quite distinct. Several times we caught glimpses of the greenish sheen on the heads of the males. The sides were clear white and the backs pale gray. The Scaup did not fly, but one did flap his wings--allowing us to see the white wing stripe extending into the primaries. There were 5 males and two females. No Lesser Scaup were seen. Other ducks using the Settling Pond at this time are Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and one pair of Canvasback. The Scaup seem to stay together--not mixing with the other divers.

Mr. B.J. Rose is Regional Supervisor of Ducks Unlimited; co-author of The Birds of South Dakota; and an accomplished bird photographer. He is very good, especially on waterfowl.

As you can see from my report, we didn't get into Iowa too much this winter. Sorry! A rather slow winter after a good beginning. Snowy Owls and Snow Buntings at Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln, Nebr. were perhaps the highlights of the season.

Sonya Bray

P.S. B.J. feels that the early date of open water (about 3 weeks to a month before usual) may have something to do with the greater incidence of Greater Scaup.

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CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya BrayOTHER OBSERVERS: Sandy KovandaSEASON: WinterBabs PadelfordYEAR: 1980-81B.J. Rose

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Snow Goose	250	2/18	De Spto Bend
Gadwall	6	2/24	Lake Manawa
Am. Wigeon	30	2/24	" "
No. Shoveler	4	"	"
Redhead	10	"	"
Greater Scaup	1	2/26	Settling Pond B.J.Rose
Com. Goldeneye	6	2/18	Settling Pond
Com. Goldeneye	15	2/24	"
Bufflehead	1	2/24	"
Hooded Merganser	4	2/24	Lake Manawa
Common Merganser	6	2/18	Lake Manawa
Com. Merganser	500	2/24	Lake Manawa
Bald Eagle	10	2/24	DeSoto Bend
Killdeer	1	2/24	DeSoto Bend
Killdeer	2	2/24	Settling Pond
Herring Gull	3	2/24	Lake Manawa
Herring Gull	20	2/26	Lake Manawa B.J.Rose
Ring-bl Gull	6	2/24	DeSoto Bend
Ring-bl Gull	30	2/24	Lake Manawa
Brown Creeper	1	2/24	DeSoto Bend
Red-wing Blackbird	500	2/24	DeSoto Bend
Black Duck	2	2/24	DeSoto Bend

WEATHER: Generally mild temperatures with little or no precipitation.
Lakes entirely open by Febr 22. Forneys Lake completely dry;
Other lakes and streams very low.