

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter; ♀ How many? 1Location? De Soto Bend, Horseshoe Bend, far south endType of habitat? Center of channel, flying to Iowa side near beachWhen? date(s): November 16, 1985 time: 11:45 to 11:50Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdtothers with you: Jim Fuller, Mark Proescholdt

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.

This sooty-colored duck swimming alone had the appearance, superficially, of a Ruddy Duck - but it was much larger than the Ruddies close by. It was scoter-shaped, a heavy bird with round head, light cheeks and dark cap, smaller by a bit from the White-winged & Surf Scoters we had seen earlier. When it flew it appeared an all dark bird. Just as it landed on the water silvery-white was showing near the tail area, no doubt the tips of its underwings. Unfortunately our time was almost up on our permit, & although we searched for another few minutes we couldn't find the Black Scoter female again.

Similar species and how eliminated: Ruddy Duck - this bird was much larger than Ruddies close by, bill was different, no pointed tail as Ruddies have - also this bird had light cheeks, extending further than Ruddies

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy, 40 yards closest to 100 yards, estimate, binoculars and scopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: Never a Black Scoter, but both Mark & Jim have seen them.References and persons consulted before writing description: Field Guides; Peterson, old National Geographic, Audubon's Master Guide, Robbins, PoughHow long before field notes made? next day this form completed? Nov. 17, 1985 ^{old} _{new}