


BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup (S.W. of Davenport) 2. Number 35
3. Location Mississippi River 
4. Date: 3-11-78 5. Time Bird Seen: 2 to 5³⁰ pm

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

We watched a flock of 35 scaup (all male except one) for about 1 1/2 hours at 3 locations. Heads were rounded without posterior notch. Wings were seen raised about 5 times and white extended beyond elbow. Birds were also seen in flight, but white on wing was more difficult to distinguish because of fast wing beat.

7. Description of voice, if heard: none

8. Description of behavior: most resting on water. Some birds were preening. They flew from time to time in small and large groups

9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River - half open water, half ice covered
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Lesser scaup. The head shape and wing stripe differences are noted above.

11. Distance (how measured)?
100 or more yards

12. Optical equipment:
20x objective on Bushnell scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Overcast with occasional light rain. Viewing was excellent for light conditions.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Very limited experience in distinguishing this species from lesser scaup

15. Other observers:
Tom Shivers

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 3 hours

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 3-11-78 City, State: Iowa City Iowa 52240