

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Black Scoter

How Many?2 females or imm.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.-off Jester Park

Habitat?swimming with other ducks on large reservoir

Date?25 Oct 1987

Time?approx. 12:30-12:50 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Paul Martsching, Andy Fix

Description of bird:Both birds were swimming with three Ruddy Ducks and about twenty Mallards. The birds were about the same size as the Mallards and were entirely dark except for a distinct white throat patch. Both birds had dark bills. When the birds flew we could see that the wings were entirely dark.

Similar species and how eliminated:Other scoters eliminated by the dark wings and the distinct throat patch.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good, except the birds were a long way off. Estimated viewing distance was about 400 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen one other Black Scoter in Iowa(Nov 1986) and thousands in Massachusetts.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?6 hours