

Birds: Verifying Documentation of an Extraordinary Sight Record

1. Surf Scoter - female or immature.
2. One
3. Farm pond SE corner of SW.62nd Ave. and Orilla Rd. in Polk County.
4. May 5, 1979
5. Approximately 4 P.M.
6. Distinctive Scoter shape and coloration - dark female with two white cheek spots on head.
7. No call made
8. Swimming with a pair of American Widgeons for entire observation period.
9. Medium sized farm pond with a few other ducks on pond - not close to farm house and no domestic fowl on pond.
10. White-Winged Scoter eliminated by lack of white wing patches. Common Scoter eliminated by two white cheek spots.
11. Bright with sun in back of observers.
12. 20 power spotting scope - distance 75 yards approx.
13. I have seen Surf Scoters on the west coast on several occasions and also on this same farm pond with Woody Brown on 11/17/77.
15. Eugene Armstrong, Eloise Armstrong, Woodward H. Brown, Mary Brown. *Stewart Burns next day*
16. Yes
17. Am writing this on ~~May~~ 6 so no follow up.
18. No additional investigation required.

R. D. Mooney, 3814 Carpenter Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50311
May 6, 1979

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