

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 2

Location? Pleasant Creek Lake, Linn County

Type of Habitat? Lake

When? date(s): 17 Mar 96 Sunday time: _____ to _____

Who? your name and address: Jeff Dankert 4402 Markle Rd Apt 7 La Crosse WI
54601-8020

Others with you: Dave Dankert

Others before or after you: None, that I know of

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Searching through scaup with a scope, I was actively seeking birds with the head shape of a Greater. Eliminating birds with a sharp peak at the rear of the crown, I saw 2 birds (males) with rounded heads, with the highest part of the crown toward the front. I watched the birds for several minutes, making sure that they weren't changing crown feathers and "hiding" the peak characteristic of L. Scaup. I then allowed Dave Dankert a view through the scope, and he agreed: 2 male G. Scaup.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Lesser, as described above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

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

B&L 15-60X zoom scope (no record of light)

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I see between 2-6 birds per spring along Mississippi R.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

"Advanced Birding" by Ken Kaufman

How long before field notes made? None this form completed? 3 months

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).