

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Surf Scoter
How Many? 1
Location? Lake Manawa

Habitat? large lake

Date? 14 March, 1986
Time? 4 p.m.

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

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird: a fairly large duck, almost as large as several nearby Common Mergansers. Entire body was a dull brownish color. As the bird preened and dove, I could not see any color on the wings. The bird had two conspicuous white patches on the cheek; one in front of the eye and one behind. The bill was much larger and heavier than a Common Mergansers, and was all dark.

Similar species and how eliminated: other scoters eliminated by the white spots on the cheek and the lack of a wing patch.

Viewing conditions and equipment: light was excellent with the sun behind me and partly obscured by clouds. Estimated viewing distance was 100-200 yards. I used a 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen Surf Scoters in Iowa and on the east coast several times.

References consulted: Nat'l Geo. Society Field_Guide_to_the_Birds_of_North_America

How long before field notes were made? immediately

How long before this form was completed? 3 days