

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Black Scoter

How Many?6 females or imm.

Location?DeSoto NWR, Harrison Co.--seen on both Iowa and Nebraska sides of oxbow at the Lakeview overlook

Habitat?swimming on lake with other ducks

Date?31 Oct 1987

Time?approx. 10:00-10:40 a.m.

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

Others who saw bird:Andy Fix, 14 other members of Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Description of bird:All six birds were swimming together with many other ducks on the lake(including four Surf Scoters). All six birds were entirely dark colored except for a large, white patch on the throat. This white patch was very distinct on all of the birds. The bills were dark and really not that large. The dark wings were seen on one of the birds as it raised its wings.

Similar species and how eliminated:Other scoters eliminated by the white patch on the throat and by the dark wings(seen on only one bird). Note that we had four Surf Scoters for direct comparison.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were o.k., although the sky was entirely overcast and a light drizzle was falling. Estimated viewing distance was about 200 yards at the closest. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several Black Scoters in Iowa and many in Massachusetts.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 26 Nov 1987