

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1Location? Union Grove Lake, Tama CountyType of habitat? a small lake with a cluster of houses along one side.When? date(s): Nov. 10, 1986 time: 1:30 to 1:31 P.M.Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscombothers with you: Phyllis Harris, Ramona Sommerlotothers before or after you: Mark Proescholdt

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

After Mark alerted me to the scoter, Phyllis, Ramona + I hurried to the lake. The bird was no longer in the same area of the lake, nor were the Hooded Mergansers it had been with. In driving around & scanning the lake from different spots we found the Hooded Mergansers, but no scoter. After walking to a point Phyllis finally saw a lone dark bird. Before we could focus a scope on it a small flock of Canada Geese took off, & this bird too. As it flew past us we saw the brown, chunky, short-necked bird with large head sloping to the bill, white secondaries, and two conspicuous white facial patches — a White-winged Scoter, most likely an immature. It headed south away from the lake, and out of sight.

Similar species and how eliminated: as we saw it fly with white wing patches & distinct white facial spots there was nothing else to confuse with it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: overcast skies, light snow - closest, 50 yards, - 8x30 Nikon binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: I have seen 2 or 3 white-winged Scoters.References and persons consulted before writing description: field guides - Peterson, National Geographic, RobbinsHow long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Nov. 28, 1986

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