

Oldsquaw 1

April 16, 1984

Willow Slough, Mills County, Iowa

Description: When I was very far away, I drew these pictures:



Then I got closer - very close at least, - and drew some details:



Size of a Lesser Scaup or a little shorter.



Bill short, dark. Head gray, with a large white patch around eye + over + behind it. Dark over ~~on~~ neck below this. Neck, upper breast, back, + wings dark gray. Lower breast light gray. Tail dark. Underparts including tail coverts white. A little white mottling on neck just below head. Legs dark, probably gray.



Behavior: flew ~~in~~ and landed late in the evening, when shadows were long. Swam about a little + soon tucked head in back to sleep. I snuck up on it with the 'Scope. Other ducks swam away from the dike as I got close, + so did it, but it kept head tucked in back. Eventually it preened. When I got home I called a rone bird alert in Omaha. Two people from Omaha + I went out to find it early ~~to~~ the <sup>next</sup> morning. There were lots of ducks, but no Oldsquaw. I had watched it 10+ minutes close up.

Written May 25 from notes taken at the time of observation.

Viewing conditions: Clear sky, late evening, final observations after sunset. 20x scope, final distance fairly short. No wind. Used a field guide.

- Barbara L Wilson  
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