

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 1 ✓
 Location? De Soto Bend, Nebr. side of channel, flying down middle of channel
 Type of habitat? Refuge area of Horseshoe Bend, Lakeview
 When? date(s): November 16, 1985 time: 9:15 to 9:17
 Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa
 others with you: Jim Fuller, Mark Proescholdt
 others before or after you: Jim + Steve Dinsmore, Mark Dixon

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.

As we drove up to the horseshoe bend at Lakeview I saw the large, blackish-brown duck just offshore raise its wings showing white wing patches. It settled down and we saw it had two light patches on the side of its head, oval, fairly small, one toward back of head, one between eye + bill. In about 1/2 a minute it flew north showing the striking rectangular white patches on the trailing edge of the wings. It was either a female or immature white-winged Scoter.

Similar species and how eliminated: Surf Scoter - this bird had the white wing patches that eliminated a Surf Scoter

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: partly cloudy, light at an angle + behind; 25-35 yards, estimate, binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: we have all seen white-winged Scoters before.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Field Guides; Peterson, National Geographic

How long before field notes made? next day this form completed? Nov. 17, 1985