



BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 2
3. Location Lake Macbride Johnson Co IA
4. Date: 5 Apr 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 8⁵⁵ to 9⁰⁵

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

A pair of scaup close to shore, would not flush first time. Male: rounded head, at times looked flat on top - no crest; Large bill which appeared high on head, large bill nail seen well from several angles → 
white sides, uniform gray back. Head black - no green seen.

Female had same rounded head, much smaller, large white face patch almost back to eye 

The pair swam back into a cove where I had them trapped and finally able to toss a stone 3/4 of way to them - wing stripes seen well on both birds - extended almost to end of primaries and quite prominent.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior: swimming, seen from all angles including top of bill.

9. Habitat - general: Artificial lake

specific: L. Macbride State Park - north arm at boat dock

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Lesser Scaup

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 yds, paced similar distance

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Leica Trinovid 20x Bushnell scope
± BT eyepiece

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Sunny - sun at 90°, to directly behind birds

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Several records from Iowa in recent years.

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

4 hours from notes taken immediately.

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 4 Apr 1980 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240