

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter How many? 5 females (probably)  
1 male (immature)

Location? Diamond Lake County Park, Poweshiek County

Type of habitat? lake

When? date(s): October 31, 1986 time: 10 a.m. to 11<sup>30</sup> a.m.

Who? your name and address: Darwin Koenig Box 389 Montezuma, IA 50171

others with you: Edwin Miller, Doug Phillips

others before or after you: none

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.

Size--almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  again as large as nearby Pied-billed Grebes.

Shape--squat, compact body, short neck.

Bill--rather thick, held parallel to water, black; male did not have orange protuberance.

Head--high, rounded forehead; females--dark brown forehead, crown and hindneck, dirty white/gray cheeks, throat and chin; male--all black.

Breast, flanks, back--females--dark brown, slightly darker on back than sides; male--uniform black.

Tail--dark brown or black; wedge-shaped and sometimes elevated in the manner of Ruddy Duck.

Eye--brown.

Feet and legs--black.

Wings--underwing 2-toned, black linings and silvery flight feathers; upperwings uniform dark brown or black.

Kept in a compact group, did some diving.

Female Surf & White-winged usually have two distinct white spots on cheeks; dark throat and chin.

Similar species and how eliminated: Ruddy Duck (winter male & female)--smaller, bill flatter and lighter colored, breast and flanks whiter, overall lighter colored. Other scoters--flatter head profile; heavier, lighter colored bill; lighter colored legs; White-winged has white speculum;

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Clear; sun in SE, we viewed to north and NW; 30 yards distance (est);  
7x35 and 25x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: First encounter with Black Scoter; Have seen many Ruddy Ducks; Surf and White-winged Scoters on west coast.  
References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's and Robbin's et al guides

How long before field notes made? at the time this form completed? 3 days

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