

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Greater Scaup

How Many?1-2 females

Location?Big Creek State Park, Polk Co.

Habitat?with other ducks near muddy area at north end of lake

Date?17,22 May 1988

Time?10:05-10:22 a.m. on 17 May and 10:15-10:20 a.m. on 22 May

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Andrew Fix (on 22 May)

Description of bird:Both birds were females and were identical in plumage. The birds were bigger than nearby Blue-winged Teal, but smaller than a Mallard. On 17 May, I saw one female on the lake. I identified the bird as a Greater Scaup by the very large, almost spatulate bill, very wide bill nail, large size compared to a Mallard (the bird wasn't much smaller than the Mallard), rounded head (not peaked like a Lesser Scaup), and white wing stripe extending on to the primaries (seen when the bird preened). On 22 May, Andy Fix and I saw two female Greater Scaup together at the same location. We identified both birds as Greater Scaup on the basis of the field marks mentioned above. Both birds were gone on 27 May.

Similar species and how eliminated:Lesser Scaup eliminated above

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent. The birds were very close providing excellent views. Estimated viewing distance was 40-50 yards at the most. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Greater and Lesser scaup in Iowa and other states.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 18 May 1988 and updated on 27 May 1988