

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 9 (7♂, 2♀)Location? Lansing, Allamakee Co., IowaType of habitat? Mississippi River, away from main channelWhen? date(s): April 10, 1982 time: 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas IAothers with you: Lynn Barth, Decorah, Iowaothers before or after you: NA

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.

Seven male Greater Scaups and two female Greater scaups (females associating with males identified) were identified in direct comparison with the many Lesser Scaups. The Greater were distinctly larger. The head shape of the birds seemed rounder and puffy in the cheeks. The head also was wider in cross section. Several of the birds approached quite closely allowing inspection of the nail of the bill which was wider and rounder than that of Lesser. The swimming birds also had much whiter sides than the duller colored male Lesser Scaups. The Greater lacked the purple iridescence and showed a greenish color to head. In flight and when stretching the birds revealed white extending well into the middle primary feathers.

Similar species and how eliminated: see above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NAIf yes, explain: NA

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

The light conditions varied under partly cloudy to sunny skies. I viewed the birds mostly with 15 to 45x zoom telescope as closely as 150 feet.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen once before. Familiar with Lesser Scaup which was abundant at time of sighting.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbin's Field Guide
Peterson's Field GuideHow long before field notes made? At time of sighting this form completed? 2 days

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Joe Schaufenbuel