

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup How many? 8 (all males)Location? Liscomb Sewage Lagoon - (Marshall Co.)Type of habitat? Open water area away from road with some brush aroundWhen? date(s): March 4, 1987 time: 4:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers 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.

We saw eight scaup and four ring-necked ducks in the back lagoon. All were males. The scaup had rounded heads and very white sides. Some of the scaup looked like they had bulging cheeks when we saw them head-on or from the back. Mom stayed by the fence and I crossed it and sneaked up on them from below the lagoon level and out of sight. I got to within 20-25 yards of them when I raised up. Some of ^{the} ducks had a greenish iridescent tint to their heads and some appeared to switch from purplish to greenish to purplish tint on their heads. I flushed them and observed a long white wing stripe that went well out onto the primaries on all the scaup. The scaup circled overhead a couple times and then flew off. Mom saw the distinctive wing stripes on all the scaup when they flew, too.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Lesser Scaup have the bold white wing stripe on secondaries only, a more angular-shaped head, and a purple gloss for head color.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sun right behind me when I was 20-25 yards away. Bright sunny skies.

Distances estimated. 22x Scope at first. 8x30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen Greater Scaup in Iowa and Churchill and lots of L. Scaup.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of North America, Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made? 8:00 p.m. this form completed? March 4, 1987

(March 4th)

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