

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species White-winged Scoter, adult male **How many?** one

Location? Big Wall Lake, Wright County

Type of habitat? open water of large freshwater marsh

When? date(s): 5 Sept 1998 **Time:** ca 8:15-8:20 a.m

Who? Jim Dinsmore

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

Others with you none

Others before or after you no one that I know

Describe the bird(s)

Large dark colored duck swimming alone several hundred yards away. No other birds for comparison.

Body very dark; generally the head, neck and chest were black, rest of body was dark brown. Distinct white patch around eye immediately obvious. Couldn't see eye itself to see location of patch relative to eye but patch obvious and matched crescent shape shown in field guides for breeding plumaged male. Bill dark at base and distal half orange-red. When bird stretched, could see that legs and feet were also orange red. When it stretched wing several times, could see large distinct white wing patch. Bird eventually flew and wing patch obvious in flight.

Similar species and how eliminated: Size and color immediately pointed toward a scoter. Eye patch immediately identified it as White-winged, further corroborated when white wing patch seen.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 20 power scope, bird several hundred meters away. Sun behind me and good lighting.

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

Have seen several in Iowa and a number in Alaska. Don't recall seeing one with white eye marking previously.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Looked at Robbins field guide while viewing bird and Nat. Geographic guide next day.

How long before field notes made? Notes taken in field while viewing bird. Typed up next day.