

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter How many? 1 ♀

Location? Pleasant Creek S.P.

Type of Habitat? lake

When? date(s): 24 Oct 1992 time: 11:15 to 11:40 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: found by Pete Wickham

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A dark duck swimming in middle of lake with a male Ruddy Duck.  
20-30% longer than Ruddy, but chunkier. All dusky black except for face. Light gray of face darker than gleaming white face of Ruddy.  
Light area below eye back to mid-neck and down to front of neck.  
Well demarcated superiorly and posteriorly, but not below. Tail held straight back at water level, not cocked like the Ruddy.



Similar species; how eliminated:

A rather distinctive bird, easily separated from Ruddy.

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.  
Sun behind me, 75 yds. 20x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen many.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? at time this form completed? 2 1/2 hrs

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).