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Documentation for Oldsquaw (Clanqula hyemalis)

March 15, 1986, 9-9:30 a. m., a single Oldsquaw was observed on Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

A medium sized duck, smaller than the common mergansers it was with. Rounded head, small, dark, rather stubby bill. Dark cap on top of head, large white, oblong cheek patches extending from the bill around the eyes to behind ear. Dark under chin, white ring around neck, breast dark just above water line, flanks white, belly and under tail white, dark back and wings. In flight, wings were all dark, black stripe down back to tail with white on both sides. Long black tail feathers not present. The bird was judged to be a first year male coming into breeding plumage. The bird was observed diving frequently, flipping out wings as it dove.

Similar species: none

Viewing conditions: Good light with morning sun at our back. Estimated distance about 200 yards. Observed with 25X Bushnell Spacemaster II.

Previous experience with species: Oldsquaws have been observed several times including breeding pairs in Churchill, Manitoba.

References used: National Geographic Birds of North America, The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, Vol. 1.

Description prepared based on field notes taken at the time of observation.

The Oldsquaw was observed again in the same location on March 15, 3:00 p. m. with Ross Silcock and ~~Steve~~ Dinsmore.
STEVE

March 16, 9:00 - 11:00 a. m. Oldsquaw observed at a distance of about 75 yards at closest point to about 200 yards at farthest with Tanya Bray and Jerry Toll.

Oldsquaw seen again on March 17, 9:30 a. m. in light rain at a distance of about 100 yards.