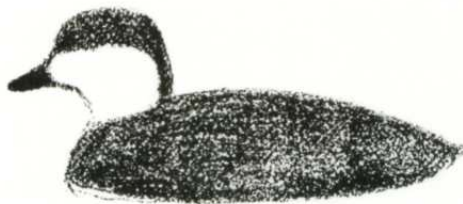


DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES



Species: Black Scoter, female

Date: 25 October 1992, midday

Location: Pleasant Creek Lake, Linn Co., Iowa

Other Observers: Bill & Daniel Pinkston

Description: Dark medium-sized duck in the company of Lesser Scaup. Near size of scaup. Short-necked and stocky on water with short tail held at or slightly above water surface. Short-winged in flight. Lower face and foreneck light gray-brown forming a discrete pale patch set off from remainder of black-brown upperparts. Dark on underparts somewhat washed out on belly and lower sides. All-black bill smallish for a scoter, lacking knobs or other striking contours. No white patches on wings.

Conditions: Observed off-and-on for nearly an hour from 75-150 meters with Zeiss 10x40 binocular and 30x Bal-scope under partly cloudy skies.

Similar Species: Among ducks, only scoters are so thoroughly black. Only Black Scoter shows uniformly pale face and foreneck. No white in wing. American Coot smaller, has white chicken-like bill.

Previous Experience: A few (males) observed at the California coast in March 1979.

--Randy Pinkston
526 Reno Street
Iowa City, IA 52245-3039
Ph.(319)351-0592