DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? _Greater Scaup_   How many? _5 (2♂, 3♀)_

Location? _Willow Slough, Mills Co., Iowa_

Type of habitat? _Open part of lake_

When? date(s): _March 30, 1985_   time: _3:25 pm_ to _3:55 pm_

Who? your name and address: _Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703_

  others with you: _Robert Cecil, Keokuk_

  others before or after you: _Others possible, don't know who_

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.

Five of the scaup on the lake looked larger than normal scaup that I usually see.
The two Males looked whiter than normal on the back and wings. The heads did not
look pointed but looked more rounded and had a fatter headed, larger headed look
than a Lesser Scaup. Two of the females had white circular patches behind
the eye which Lesser Scaup do not have. The birds never flew while being
viewed. I could not make any color out on the head of the males. With the
combination of the above I concluded they were Greater Scaup.

Similar species and how eliminated: Female Lesser Scaup do not have white "ear patch"
as these females did. All five birds had a somewhat larger headed looks with the head
looking "fat" and rounded not pointed as Lesser Scaup would have appeared.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _No_

  If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
  Partly cloudy. Seen from approx 75 yards at closest using Nikon 20x60 Telescope and Leitz
  10x40B Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen quite a few Greater Scaup
  and lots of Lesser Scaup.
References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? _4 hours_ this form completed? _2 days_

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