

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Surf Scoter How many? 1 ♀Location? De Soto Bend NWR, Harrison CountyType of habitat? large oxbow lake along major riverWhen? date(s): 11 Nov., 1985 time: 3:30 PM to 4:00 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010others with you: James Dinsmore and Mark Dixon, both of Ames, B.J. Rose, Nebraskaothers before or after you: ~~James Dinsmore and Mark Dixon, both of Ames, B.J. Rose, Nebraska~~

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.

The uniform dark brown body, including throat, breast, back, sides, and wings identified the bird as a scoter. The two white spots on the cheek, one in front of and the other behind the eye, and the white patch on the back of the head identified the bird as a surf scoter. The bird was probably a female because immature birds do not show any white on the back of the head.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Other scoters eliminated by uniform dark wings, large bill, two white spots on cheek, and white patch ~~of~~ on back of head.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: —

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Light was excellent with cloudy sky and no bright sunlight. Estimated viewing distance as close as 30 feet. ~~and~~ I used Nikon 8x23 Binoculars and a B+L Spotting Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen 2 other Surf Scoters in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? 24 hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240