

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Scoter How many? 1Location? Ventura Marsh, 1/2 Mi. S. of Ventura, Cerro Gordo Co., IAType of habitat? Type IV Cattail MarshWhen? date(s): 11-4-90 time: Unk to _____Who? your name and address: Ted LaGrange, Iowa DNR, 1203 N. Shore Dr., Clear Lake, IA 50428others with you: Shot by Scott Grammer. Taxidermist Kevin Olson brought it to DNR officeothers before or after you: in office was observed by myself, Guy Zenner (DNR Waterfowl Biol.) and Lowell Washburn (DNR I&E)

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.

Was about the size of a canvasback but appeared to be heavier.

Had a black bill w/ yellow inner nostril, black-brown ~~the~~ crown and back, gray single cheek patch from bill to $\approx \frac{1}{2}$ way down neck, gray/cream breast with brown speckles. Wing was black on upper surface and silvery brown underneath. ~~The~~ several secondaries were tipped w/ $\approx \frac{1}{8}$ " of white (I found this not to match any plates in Bellrose, or Robbins et al.). The feet were gray and pale yellow. The bird was a juvenile because it had distinctly notched tail feathers. Sex could not be determined because the bird was frozen.

* Photos were taken and the bird is being mounted by Kevin Olson of Ventura, IA.

Similar species and how eliminated: Surf Scoter, white-winged scoter. This bird lacked the (2) white patches on the head that the other 2 scoter species have.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

in-handPrevious experience with species and similar ones: Ornithology class, I've viewed oldsquaws, eiders & white-winged scoters in-hand before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? Made white examining bird this form completed? same day

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