

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Greater Scaup (Aythya marila) How many? 3 ♂Location? Volga River Recreation Area just N. of Dam near boat ramp, Fayette Co.Type of habitat? Open waterWhen? date(s): November 25, 1983 time: 3:35 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None that I know of

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 three birds were swimming parallel to shore as I sat in my car and did not spook as I watched them. They swam broadside to me for some time as I watched with first my binoculars then my C90 telescope. The sun shining on their heads made them look like they had green heads at first. They had very rounded heads and appeared quite a bit lighter ~~the~~ gray on the back and sides than other scaup that I was used to seeing. There were not any Lesser Scaup close to compare size with these birds. I opened the door of my car to get a better view of them as they swam further away and they flew and I could see that the white in the secondaries continued quite a ways into the primaries; almost to the tips of the primaries. With all these characteristics taken together it would mean that these birds were Greater Scaup. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Lesser Scaup has a purple sheen to the head at close range under the viewing conditions present when these birds were seen. Lesser Scaup also has a more pointed look to the top of the head and does not show the white in the primaries in flight.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Viewing conditions excellent, sunny, closest distance approximately 75 feet through 7x35mm B+L Binoculars then about 100 feet through Celestron C90 telescope with 33x eyepiece.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen lots of Lesser Scaup and several Greater Scaup both in Iowa and Virginia.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? At time of sighting this form completed? 4 hours

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