

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? GREATER SCAUP How many? 1 maleLocation? North arm of Lake McBride, Johnson County, IA.Type of habitat? Deep open water near boat docks. Favorite area for diving ducks.When? date(s): 31 March, 1982 time: 4:30 to 4:45PMWho? your name and address: Carl J. Bendorf, 825 7th Ave. Iowa City, IA. 52240

others with you: _____

others before or after you: 4 Greater Scaup seen here several days earlier
by Tom Kent.

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.

About 200-300 scaup swimming in water. Almost immediately, at the near side of the group, one bird caught my eye. As I compared it to the many nearby scaup, I noted the follow points:

1. Sides were whiter and the white seemed to come up higher on the sides of the swimming bird compared to the Lesser Scaup.
2. Head color as reflected in sunlight was greenish at all angles. All the other birds were purplish under the same conditions.
3. This bird seemed stockier and slightly larger than Lesser's.
4. Sat with head sort of tucked down on to body. Other birds held heads more erect and alert.
5. Other scaup showed tufted or pointed head shapes on the back of the top of the head. This was evident whether they faced into or away from wind, which was perhaps 10-15 mph. This bird had a very rounded headed shape at all times. Back of head was somewhat flattened at all times. The lesser scaup sometimes showed a flattened head. But this bird never showed a pointed head.
6. With this bird and a lesser scaup in the same scope field, the bill of this bird was broader⁴⁵ seen head on. Both birds faced directly at me at the same time for a good comparison.

This bird seemed to associate with a female scaup which was probably also a Greater.

I never had a chance to look for the white wing stripes.

Similar species and how eliminated: Lesser Scaup discussed above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Excellent light from behind me, estimated 75 yards, 20X scope.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen Greater Scaup with Larry Balch in Chicago several years ago.References and persons consulted before writing description: NONEHow long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 2 mos.MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240