

BIRDS: DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 2
3. Location Lake Macbride S.P., Johnson Co IA
4. Date: 12/20/80 5. Time Bird Seen: 9²⁵ to 9²⁸
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Eight scaup were swimming in 30 ft patch of open water. I noticed one with a low flat (rounded) head profile (male). It dove. Soon after it came up, all 8 scaups flushed; the bird I was watching and another flushed a long wing stripe - well into primaries. I switched from scope to binoculars and saw short wing stripes - short cut off at primaries - on the other scaup. As they made a long slow circle, 2 stayed together and were noticeably larger than the others.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NA
8. Description of behavior: swimming + flying.
9. Habitat - general: deep artificial lake - last spot of open water
specific: South arm of Lake Macbride west of bridge.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Lesser scaup in same group - wing stripes compared.
11. Distance (how measured)? 150 yards (est) - nearest
12. Optical equipment: 20x ballscope 8x40 Leica binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
clear, sun behind and to left of observer
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Several experiences studying Greater Scaup in Iowa in last 3 years
15. Other observers: 7 others in party either inexperienced or did not see the birds well
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Tom Shires saw one scaup there later in the day + saw wing stripe
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
not consulted
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes made immediately - this written 1/2 days later.
- Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 12/21/80 City, State: Iowa City, Iowa 52240