

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Greater Scaup 2. Number 1 male
3. Location L. Manawa, Pottawattamie Co. IA
4. Date: 24 Mar 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:15 AM to 8:16
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):

While scanning a mixed flock of divers and puddle ducks in shallow water a lone scaup was noticed. The head profile was distinctly flat and rounded. I thought the bill was large with a prominent nail. I stepped out of the car to get a better look and all of several hundred ducks flew directly away from us. The scaup was easily picked out and the wing stripes very clearly extended all the way through the primaries, as good a look as I have seen.

7. Description of voice, if heard:
NA
8. Description of behavior: Initially feeding in shallow water, then flew directly away.
9. Habitat - general: Large round lake in Missouri River bottoms ^{at} South edge of Council Bluffs.
specific: Lake Manawa
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Lesser Scaup--head shape and wing stripe were the differential features noted.
11. Distance (how measured)?
50 yards (guess)
12. Optical equipment:
Leitz Trinovid 8 X 40
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sun behind and slightly to left of observers.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
A number of recent observations in Iowa.
15. Other observers: Thomas K. Shires, Peter C. Petersen
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
The bird was reported in this area ~~earlier~~ in the month by several observers.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
48 hours
- Signature: Thomas H. Kent *Thomas H. Kent* Address: 211 Richards St
Date: 26 Mar 1981 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240