

Nov 5, 1979  
Thorabury F4479

Dear Dr. Kent,

I am writing you concerning a duck that was shot at the Lake Odessa controlled hunting area. The bird was an immature male White-winged Scoter. The bird was shot by Bill Marriott of Davenport. It is now in the freezer here at the Lake Odessa Game Management headquarters.

The bird was identified using several books including Waterfowl of North America by Paul Johnsongard. The large size of 2.5 pounds and over-all brownish-black color, plus an all white speculum narrowed down our choice of birds. The frayed tips of the tertial feathers plus the light weight helped identify the bird as an immature. The sex of the bird was the hardest job. The external markings were few in number to tell the sexes apart. The bird did show black feathers on the head and white only behind the eye.

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The tarsus was a uniform reddish-brown and showed no black on the outer side. An examination of the cloaca revealed a small unheated penis after very careful examination.

I hope this description is enough for ~~documentation~~ documentation of the bird. If you need any other information, please call the Lake Odessa headquarters (319-523-3102).

The bird was shot on November 1.

Sincerely,

Robert E Thornburg  
Pleasantville  
Iowa

P. S. I will keep you informed of any other unusual birds seen here at Lake Odessa as I will be working here until Dec. 1