

Oct 18, 1996

I wish to report a rare bird sighting. The bird was a Surf Scoter seen at Farmington Bay on this date. The duck was on the east side of the main north south dike between the air boat launching area and the extreme south parking lot. I first saw it swimming with some American Coots about 100 Feet from the dike. As I approached the coots moved off toward the center of the pond but the scoter did not and continued to move south parallel to the road. I had the bird under observation for about thirty minute at distances down to about 60 feet. I was using a celestron 15-60 power scope. It was the first time I have ever seen a bird of this species but I used three different field guides to verify the identification. No there was no one with me to confirm the sighting. I reported the find to the wild life officer at the refuge but he had never heard of the species and was not too anxious to go and check him self. The duck was all black with a rather large all dark bill. There were two small areas on the cheek that were starting to turn white and a large area at the back of the head that was also turning white. I identified the bird as an immature surf scoter probably a male. There was no white on the wings.

Sincerely Calvin Robbins