

1982-32 utp

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

AMERICAN BIRDS MOUNTAIN WEST
UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Species: Melanerpes formicivorus
(Vernacular name)

Say's Screech Owl 044
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 10/24/82 Time Bird Seen: 1:50 to _____

Locality: North causeway Antelope Island State Park
Nearest town, county and state: Syracuse, Utah

Optical equipment: 9x36 binoculars, 20-45x Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Canon AE-1, 280mm

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: Immature

Light conditions: Fair weather, good lighting

Distance from bird, and how measured: ~50 yds, estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Swimming offshore in a group of several grebes

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
off Antelope Island causeway

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

large duck-sized all black except for 2 white facial patches, one behind the bill and the other just behind the bill. no white wing patches seen but the scoter never flew so this is not conclusive; however, both the bill shape and facial patch configuration seemed most consistent with a surf scoter

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

none

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

definitely not black scoter but possibly a white-winged immature scoter.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

observed surf scoters once before but never white-winged nor black.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory ✓

NAME (print): Tim Healey

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Signature: Tim Healey

Return to UFO RECORDS COMMITTEE
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