

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

1982-34 w6

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE FOR U.F.O. RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION CODES ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
 Altitude _____ Record type _____ Serial No. NOV 22 1982 - 047
 Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Surf Scoter *Not a scoter name*
 Scientific Name Melanitta deglandi
 Sight date 4 Nov 1982 time 1340-1400 duration 20 min.
 Distance from bird about 250 meters
 Light conditions Good, sun to my side.
 Optical equip. 20x spotting scope
 Photo. equip. —
 Number of this species seen 3
 Notes made at time of sighting Date this report was prepared. _____
 Notes made later from memory _____
 Photo available Photo enclosed 6 Nov 1982

Weather at time of this observation.
Clear, 50°, winds SW about 15 mph.
 Prior weather & number of days since change
A cold front passed through 4 days before, good weather since.

Locality
Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co.

Male Adult Age unk. Basic Plumage Light Phase
 Female Subadult ♀ or Imm Breeding Dark Phase
 Sex Unk. Juv/Imm _____ year bird Eclipse Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED — Unique features of this bird, if any.

Birds were about 14-15 inches long, with a plump body and short tail. Body color was grayish-brown overall except for 2 grayish-white spots or patches on the head. One patch was located between the eye and bill; the other was located behind the eye over the ear. The bill was black and distinctly thickened from tip to base; length about 1½ inches. The neck was quite short and the birds usually kept their head pulled in close to the body, although they occasionally extended their necks to look around. The sloping forehead and bill gave the birds a canvasback-like head shape. The tail was about 2 inches and held up at a slight angle. Wings entirely dark (observed when 1 of the birds flapped its wings).



ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS ETC.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None

Variations from expected field marks.

None

Were similar species and how you eliminated them.

White-winged Scoter (like) has a white speculum and a rounded forehead and a thinner bill. Head shape more similar to Redhead than Canvasback.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Birds were slowly swimming in center of reservoir near 2 Ruddy ducks, but there was no interaction.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Reservoir.

Describe birds song or sounds.

Not heard.

Names of other observers. A/C + phone #

none

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I am very familiar with the 3 North American scoters.

Print name & mailing address below.

Steven Hedges
889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

A/C and Phone No. 801-586-3420

Signature: Steven Hedges