

accepted

11-1984

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: White-winged Scoter Scientific Name: *Melanitta deglandi*

Date: 31 Oct. 1984 Time: 0940 Length of time observed: 5 minutes

Number: 5 Age: immature Sex: unknown

Location: Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co.

Lat/long: 15 Elevation: 5600

Distance to bird: 150 m. to 300 m. Light conditions: Good, sun to my back

Optical equipment: 20x Bushnell scope

Weather: Partly cloudy, no wind, 50°

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

All 5 birds were similar in appearance. They were about 15 or 16 inches long with a chunky body, fairly short thick neck and short tail. Plumage was dark brown overall except for a whitish spot between the bill and eye, ~~and~~ another whitish spot behind the eye, and a white speculum. The bill was brown, about an inch long, thick at the base and abruptly tapered to the tip.

Voice or call notes: not heard

Behavior: Swam together in a group of 3 and 2. Stayed together and didn't associate much with nearby Buffleheads, Lesser scaup, Redheads, and coots.

Habitat: Deeper water at south end of Minersville Res.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Two white spots on head and white speculum.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

♀/im. Surf Scoter has 2 white head spots, but lacks the white speculum.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've observed 100's of both scoters along the west coast.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

3rd record for Lat/long 15.

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording in available):

Observer: Steven P. Hedges Signature: Steven P. Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W., Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

none

Date prepared: 7 Nov 84

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120