

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

~~10-1984~~
14-1984

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Surf Scoter Scientific Name: *Melanitta perspicillata*
 Date: 14 Nov 1984 Time: 0930 Length of time observed: 20 minutes
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: ♀
 Location: south end of Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co.
 Latilong: 15 Elevation: 5600
 Distance to bird: ~ 60 m. Light conditions: Good, light to my back
 Optical equipment: 20 x scope
 Weather: Clear, 50°, light wind.

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

Bird was about 14 inches long with brown plumage. There was a whitish spot between the bill and eye and another whitish spot near the ear. The bill was blackish, about 1½ inch long, about ¾ inch thick at the base and tapered evenly to the tip. The crown and back of neck were dark brown, almost black. The remainder of head was light gray-brown as was the neck and breast. Remainder of plumage was brown, including wings.



tracing of field sketch

Voice or call notes: not heard

Behavior: Swimming and diving near dam. Stayed by itself or occasionally with Greater scaup.

Habitat: Open, deep water reservoir.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:
Two whitish patches on head and lack of white speculum

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:
White-winged Scoter has a white speculum.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:
I have observed 100's of both species.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none

Significance of record in this area or the state:
3rd latilong record.

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

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

Signature: Steven Hedges

Other observers who independently identified this bird:
none

Date prepared: 19 Nov. 1984

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