

22-1984

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

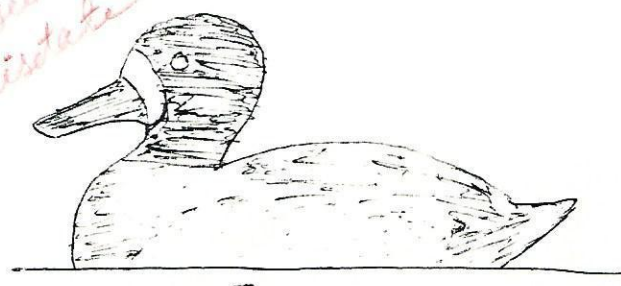
Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Greater Scaup Scientific Name: *Aythya marila*
 Date: 14 Nov 1984 Time: 0930 Length of time observed: about 20 minutes
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: ♀
 Location: Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co, south end near dam.
 Latilong: 15 Elevation: 5600
 Distance to bird: ~ 60 m. Light conditions: Good, sun to observers back
 Optical equipment: 20x 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.)

Length of subject bird was about 14 or 15 inches and similar in shape to Lesser scaup with following exceptions. The head was very round with no hint of a tuft. The head was proportionally larger compared to the body than on a Lesser Scaup. The bill was noticeably heavier and wider than Lesser scaup. The head was dark brown with a white patch around the base of the bill. The bill appeared black. The eye was yellow. The back, breast, neck, and tail were brown, but lighter than the head. The sides were light brown and flecked with considerable white.

*Noted that bird
 might be a hybrid
 There are many hybrids of
 considerable species - had heard
 writer calling, who would tolerate to
 call it anything but
 a scaup -
 distinct
 well*



tracing of field sketch

Voice or call notes: *not heard*

Behavior: *Swimming by itself or with Surf Scoter. Did not associate with nearby flock of Lesser Scaup.*

Habitat: *Open reservoir.*

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:
Rounded head was main feature.

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

Lesser Scaup: head is distinctly tufted & usually a little smaller proportional to body. Bill is also smaller and narrower.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have observed 1002 of both species of scaup.

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

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd record for Latilong.

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

Observer: *Steven Hedges*

Signature: *Steven Hedges*

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

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*