

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: White-winged Scoter Scientific Name: Melanitta fusca
 Date: Oct. 27, 1985 (3) Time: various Length of time observed: 15 min. (total)
 Nov. 3 (1)
 Nov. 4 (4) Age: Sex:
 Number: 1-4

Location: near Grantsville exit on I-80

Latilong: 5 Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 20 feet Light conditions: variable

Optical equipment: 15X60 scope

Weather: variable

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

Three of the birds fit the following description:

A short-necked, stocky mainly dark brown bird
 When the bird was swimming a white patch could be seen which was made by the white speculum. When the bird either flapped its wings or flew the white speculum was clearly seen.
 Eye dark
 The bill was dark brown, large and was feathered down to the nostril
 Two white spots were seen on the head. One behind the eye, the other in front

The fourth bird first seen on November 4, was similiar except the two white spots on the head were much more prominent... they were hugh

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Behavior:

Habitat:

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

Surf Scoters were eliminated by the obvious white speculum and by the feathering that extended down the bill and by the lack of a dark crown

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have spent time studying the differences in the three Scoters in California and have observed all three species in Utah

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

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later v from memory ___

Observer: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
Address: West Valley City UT
84120

Signature:

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Joelle Buffa and Dale Marting
originally found and identified these birds
Other observers: Richard Sorensen, Harry Spencer, Jim Wolfe

Date prepared:

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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