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Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
 Habitat _____ Record type _____ Serial No. DEC 10 1982 - 053
 Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name BLACK SCOTER
 Scientific Name Melanitta nigra
 Sight date 13-14 Nov 82 time midday duration 30 min total
 Distance from bird 15 m.
 Light conditions good - but slightly backlit in some views
 Optical equip. Quattro 80X
 Photo. equip. Minolta XG-7 / Soligor 400 mm lens
 Number of this species seen 1
 Notes made at time of sighting Date this report
 Notes made later from memory was prepared.
 Photo available Photo enclosed

Weather at time of this observation.
 clear cold and very windy 20-30 mph
 1st day of sighting - subsequent days
 clear & calm

Prior weather & number of days since change
 weather front came through the
 evening previous to the sighting

Locality
 W. end of Antelope Is. causeway
 fresh water side

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.

Large, blackish duck with black bill & silvery cheek patch.
 The cheek patch covered an area from ~~the~~ just below the
 superciliary area, extended through the cheek and face and ~~ended~~
 ended below the malar region, ~~and the~~ the bill was black
 and the remainder of the plumage was dark brownish black.
 The tail region sloped into the water (rather than sticking
 up as Ruddy Duck or puddle duck style). In flight, there
 was no white on the dorsal surface of the wings. The
 flight was quite heavy and labored compared to that
 of other ducks in the area. Head large and rounded.
 It was further noted that neither leg had a band
 and that both hind toes were intact. In addition,
 the bird was skittish - all indicating a wild rather
 than escaped individual.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

NONE

Variations from expected field marks.

NONE

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Ruddy Duck: much smaller and browner; does not have a black bill and the cheek patch of males is white or pale brownish-white not silvery. Overall shape, different including less rounded head and larger bill relative to head and body than a Scoter and entire body shape different. Flight much lighter; wing-beat very rapid.

Gadwall? much paler colored white wing pattern and tail side pattern different body shape

Other Scoters: Surf - ♀ has 2 small white spots on face, not cheek patch
White-winged - white wing patch

Eiders - ♀ King - more uniformly colored, brownish; lacks distinct cheek patch
♀ Common, Steller's, Spectacled - different beak shapes from a Scoter

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

seen diving on occasion.

In flight, it tended to take off parallel to the water surface and stayed low to the water in flight.

(this is typical of sea ducks i.e. scoters, eiders, etc.)

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

Describe birds song or sounds.

Names of other observers. A/C+phone#

Alan Groner, Ella Sarason,
Mark Bromley, Merrill Webb-
others

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I've had prolonged, extensive experience with scoters, especially Black and Surf. I usually see several thousand of each (or more) annually

Print name & mailing address below.

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Signature: 