

23-1985 a

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Greater Scaup

Scientific Name: Aythya marila

Date: Feb. 28, 1985 Time: 9:30 am

Length of time observed: hours

Numerous times till March 7

Number: 3 Age: adults

Sex: 1 male 2 female

Location: Stansbury Lake, Toolee County

Latilong: 5

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 100 feet

Light conditions: good, bad, intermed

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.)

Male Head, breast, and rump dark
 Sides immaculate white
 Back gray and white lines
 Head rounded, almost flat on top
 Bill large, grayish, with a large black nail, which looked like a large piece of pie. the circular part on the front edge of the bill extended for the greater part of the front bill
 The bird often extended its wings and the white flashy wing stripe was observed to extend onto the primaries.

Female #1
 Bill and head shape similiar to male
 Body and head all brown except for extensive white around bill and a white crescent which was very distinct on the ear coverts.

Female #2
 Similiar to female #1 except mark on ear coverts was more like an oval.

All three birds were smaller than near by Lesser Scaup

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Not heard

Behavior: Spent a great deal of the time with heads down, occasionally would dive.

Habitat: In a fairly deep portion of a lake.

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

Lesser Scaup have a much more peaked head, smaller, different shaped
hail, bill is smaller and less scoter like, These are diagnostic marks.

Other marks which are not diagnostic but are more often associated
with greater/scaups than lesser scaups that were seen on these birds:

Wing stripe went out flashy white onto the primaries.

The white creasent,/oval behind the eye.

Greater amount of white around the bill

Whiter sides

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

We have had lots with Lesser Scaups and have studied Greater in Calif.

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

Paul Lehmen Guy Mc Caskie

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 X notes made later X from memory X

Observer: Richard and Ella Sorensen Signature:

Address: 3868 Marsha Drive, West Valley City, Utah 84120

Other observers who independently identified this bird: David Fischer, Mark Bromley
Clyde Morris, Joelle Buffa, Helen and Carl Chindgren, Joe Leigh, Bill
Hunter

Date prepared: March 14, 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120