

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Surf Scoter Scientific Name: Melanitta perspic - illata

Date: October 24, 1983 Time: 2:00PM Length of time observed: 30 min

Number: 3 Age: Sex:

Location: near Saltair on the Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake Countay

Latilong: 5 Elevation (if known):

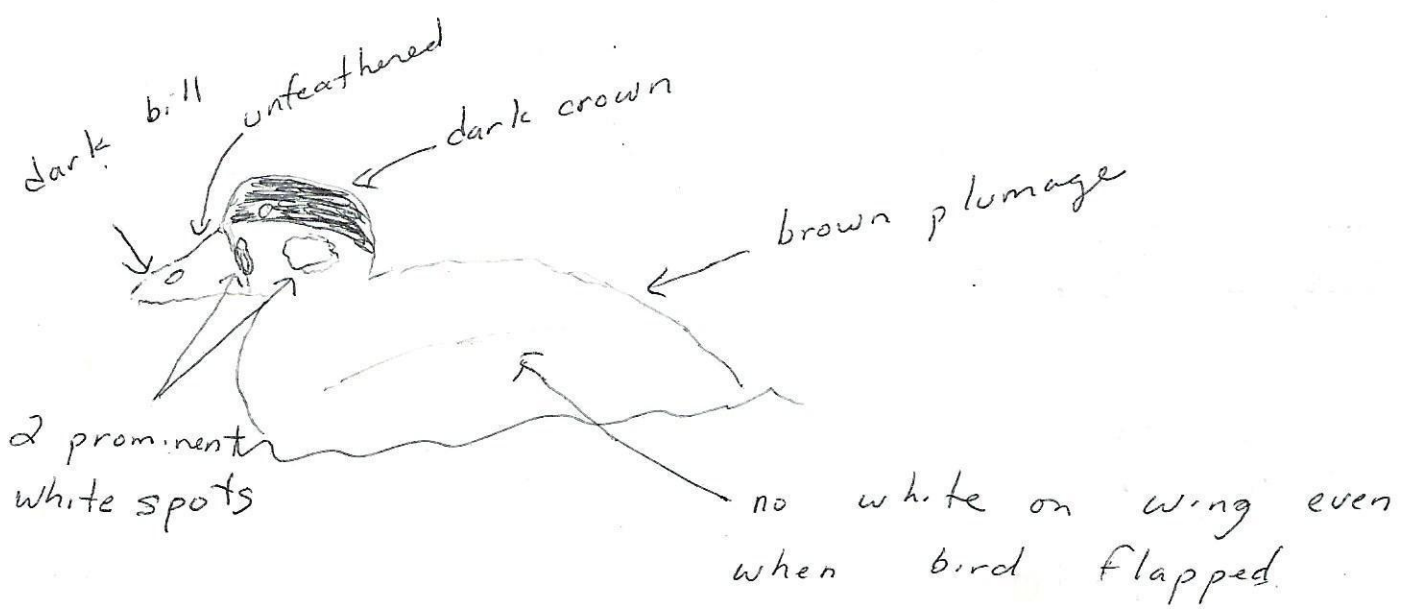
Distance to bird: 200feet Light conditions: bright

Optical equipment: 15X60 scope

Weather: calm preceeded by storm

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

Large, stocky short necked duck
Dark brown plumage except for two prominent white spots on the side of the face. The crown was very dark contrasting with the rest of the head.
The dark bill was not feathered as in the White-winged Scoter The bill appeared swollen at the base.
The wings from above (noted when the birds flaped their wings) were all dark lacking the white patches of the White-winged.



Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Behavior: The scoters were swimming and diving in the lake.

Habitat: Great Salt Lake

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

White-winged Scoter was eliminated by the lack of White wing patches and the lack of feathering on the bill.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I am familiar with all three scoters both from Utah and Calif.

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

None

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 y notes made later from memory

Observer: Ella Sorensen Signature:

Address: 3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah
84120

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Merrill Webb 10/
Dave Fischer 10/

Date prepared: October 24, 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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