

Species: Black Scoter

(Vernacular Name)

*Melanitta nigra*

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 9, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 3 PM

to 3:30 PM

Locality: Cherry Creek Reservoir

Nearest Town: Denver

County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

I am not sure whether or not anyone else saw the bird.

Optical Equipment: 15-60 X B&amp;L Zoom telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Sun shining on the bird from behind the observer

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum distance of 175 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: female or immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was diving frequently when first found, in the center of a small bay. Later it went to sleep. After it woke up, it was observed feeding by diving and 5 feet from a stony pier, and later seen swimming back out into the middle of the bay.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A medium-sized duck, somewhat smaller than Mallards. Bill black. Forehead, crown and nape dark blackish-brown, going to about the level of the eye. Cheeks and upper neck pale grayish-white. Remainder of the body uniform dark blackish-brown.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Moderately large recreation reservoir.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Surf Scoter-has two diffuse whitish patches on face, not a large well-defined white area.

White-winged Scoter-same as for Surf.

Ruddy Duck(male in nonbreeding plumage)-smaller in size, chunkier, with a hump-backed appearance, face patch appears whiter, head more rounded, stiff tail.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen Surf and White-winged Scoters several times, including birds in Colorado in nonbreeding plumage.

Have seen Ruddy Ducks many times, in all plumages.

Have seen Black Scoter twice(5, both males and females)in California in 1973, and a bird in nonbreeding plumage on Baseline Reservoir October 26-Nov. 1, 1975.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Standard guides consulted, confirmed identification.

This report was written from notes made during X after        observation; from memory       

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews

SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: Nov 12, 1975

Street Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way

Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 8022

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 14450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: COMMON SCOTER

*Oidemia nigra*

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 15, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 3:30 P.M.

to 3:55 P.M.-MST

Locality: Cherry Creek Reservoir

Nearest Town: Englewood

County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Bright, clear, air still, Light from directly behind observer

Distance from bird (how measured): Estimated: first bird 150 yards; second bird 500 yards

Number of Birds Seen: Two Sex: Unknown Plumage: Probably immatures, possibly females

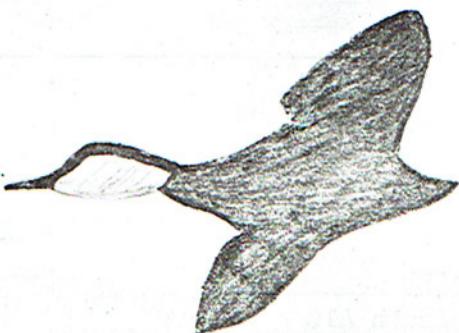
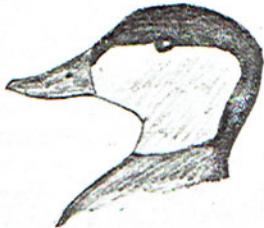
Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

First bird: Observed occasionally diving for food just off the sand bar at the extreme western end of Cherry Creek Reservoir. When not diving the bird was at rest or busily dabbing at something on the water's surface (as if in the act of feeding much in the fashion that I have observed Sabine's and Bonaparte's Gulls do).

Second Bird: Only observed for three or four minutes at considerable distance swimming. It abruptly took to the air and flew off to the south part of the reservoir.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Both birds: Small (19" or 20"), mostly dark brown diving duck. Top of head dark dusky brown. Cheek, chin, throat and foreneck markedly pale gray. Nape and hind neck also dark dusky brown. Eye, dark. Bill, dark without protuberance. Rest of upper body including wings and tail dark dusky brown. Underparts (observed well on the bird closest to me when it would rise up and flap wings momentarily), dark brown on breast, whitish on belly (indicating to me that the closest bird was probably an immature).



(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Fresh water reservoir on high plains

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

White-winged Scoter: (Immature) Has obvious white speculum on wing. Has conspicuous white patches on sides of head in ear region and in front of eye.

Surf Scoter: (Immature) Lacks white speculum but head pattern is different-two white patches, one over ear and one between eye and base of bill.

Ruddy Duck: Also has white face but is much smaller and differently shaped

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen all three Scoters on both seaboards, most recently one week ago when I saw in excess of 25000 scoters at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
None.

This report was written from notes made during x after    observation; from memory   

PRINT NAME: JACK REDDALL SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: Nov. 16, 1975

Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110