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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT
☐ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

(A)
CFO-ORC FILE NO. 8-78-1
☐ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED

Species: Common Scoter
(Vernacular Name)

Oidemia nigra
(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): Oct. 28 '77 Time Bird Seen: 10:15 to 10:45

Locality: Fairmont Lake (Reservoir) in city limits of

Nearest Town: Denver Colo. County: Denver (2)

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: Bausch & Lomb Scope Zoom 60 (at 25 power)

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird (how measured): 100 yds. (guess) (about a football field)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Feeding. Surfaced very near spot he had submerged.
Once came up with ^{small} fish he seemed to flip around a bit
before consuming. Seemed to ride slightly lower in water
than nearby Redheads. ~~His diving was as more like~~
He dove with less of a flip than nearby buffleheads.

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:

Near size of nearby Redheads.

First noticed prominent yellow-orange protuberance at base of
bill; it was quite large, almost obscuring rest of
bill. Body and head color black.
(That's all I have in field notes)

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

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Small inter-city reservoir

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Large yellow-orange bill protuberance.
Entirely black color.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

None

Have seen in Calif. both Surf and White-winged Scoter

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

Birds of No. Am. (Robbins)

Birds of W. No. Am. (Peterson)

Birds of Colorado (Bailey)

Did consult books to verify
my first guess.

I was too excited to make

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

PRINT NAME: Judy Ward

SIGNATURE: Judy Ward

DATE: 11-1-77

Street Address: 3117 E. 7th AVE.

Town and State: Denver, Colo.

ZIP 80206

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

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORMNEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Black ScoterMelanitta nigra

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 30 October 1977Number of birds seen: OneSex: MalePlumage: Adult-alternateLocality: Fairmount Lake

Elevation: _____

Nearest town: DenverCounty: ArapahoeTime(s) observed: 0700-0730Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) Continuously for at least 30 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Judy Ward found it; probably a number of others also saw it (John and Joyce Cooper and Mildred Snyder according to Lark Bunting, Vol. 13, No. 2-November 1977)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Perfect-sun shining brightly on bird from directly behind observerOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 15-60X Zoom telescopeDistance, and how measured: Minimum estimated distance-several hundred feet

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Swimming and actively diving (I timed a total of 20 dives, which averages 31.5 seconds)

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

Medium-sized duck, rather chunky with a stocky neck and large head. Plumage entirely black; large orange-yellow caruncle on the base of the upper mandible.

(OVER)

Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Small reservoir in a mixed suburban-agricultural area.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Nothing else even remotely resembles it; absolutely unmistakable.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have observed Black Scoters several times previously in Colorado—all were females or immatures however. I have observed adult males in California though.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None needed.

b) after observation:

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

Date and time report was written: 8 January 1978

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
CITY PARK
DENVER, COLORADO 80205