

## Colorado Field Ornithologists - Sight Record Form

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- New State Record-----  
- X - Rare bird in CO  
-----Black Scoter  
(Species)Melanitta nigra  
(Scientific name)

## Date(s):

October 17, 1993 9:00-9:45 AM off an on for 15 minutes.

## Locality:

Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, Pueblo County. The bird was on the north side of the reservoir and then flew to the east to the wind surfing area near the dam.

Nearest town, county and state)

## Optical equipment:

10X40 Baucsh &amp; Lomb Custom Binoculars

Questar spotting scope

15X-45X Baucsh &amp; Lomb Discoverer Spotting Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Not Photographed.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: adult

## Light Conditions:

okay, overcast during observation.

## Distance from bird and how measured:

35 to 100 yards

## Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Lindsay Lilly Jr. spotted the bird from a great distance in his Questar spotting scope. The bird dove many times. The bird got up and flew east to the northeast side of the reservoir near the wind surfing area. The bird swam with a few Western Grebes when we first observed it and then it was seen with a Eared Grebe and it was also not near any bird at times.

## Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

I observed the bird flying and swimming on a man-made reservoir.

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Other observers who independently identified the bird  
(Please list names and address):  
Lindsay Lilly Jr. with me  
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Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's scoter shape, small dark bill, pale face, throat and cheeks. Dark crown to the eyes on both sides through the neck. Also by it's dark black back, wings and tail. The bird was about 19 inches in length. The bill was black. The crown part of the head to the neck was a black color. The back, wings, tail, and sides were all black. The cheeks down to the neck below the bill was all light colored. The eyes were not observed. The legs were black when it flew. It flew just above the water, giving flaps, and glides (like other scoters). In flight the bird was all dark on the upper parts. There was no white in wings when flew.

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Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:  
No calls heard.  
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List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Ruddy Duck: By it's bigger bill, by it's bright white cheek. Also not as dark as scoters.

Surf Scoter: Has white dots on face in all female and immature plumages.

White-winged Scoter: Has white wing patches, has white dots on face in all female and immature plumages.

Harlequin Duck: Females have white dots on the face.  
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Prior experience with this and similar species:

This is my first Black Scoter evr.

I've seen many Ruddy Ducks in CO, CA, and AZ.

I've seen two adult male White-winged Scoters in CO.

I've seen 3 adult males and 3 females or immature Surf Scoters in CO.

I've seen one adult male and one adult female Harlequin Duck in Yellowstone NP in Wyoming in 1985 with Van Truan.  
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Field Guides used to determine sighting:

National Geographic Society's Birds of North America.  
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This report was written from notes made during\_\_\_\_ after X;  
from memory\_\_\_\_.  
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Name: Brandon K. Percival  
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Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604  
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Signature: (719)-547-3722  
*Brandon K. Percival*  
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Return form to: Bill Prather  
C.F.O. Official Records Committee  
13810 Weld County Road 1  
Longmont, Colorado 80504  
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