

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

2001-93

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Black Scoter	(Scientific Name) Melanitta nigra	
Date(s) of occurrence: 10/28/01		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Female	Plumage: Adult
Exact location: Standley Lake		
County: Jefferson	Nearest town: Westminster	Elevation: Approx. 5300 ft.
Length of observation: 10 minutes or so		Time(s) of observation:
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: MOB		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Clear, calm		
Optical equipment used: Leica 8 X 42 binocs & Swarovski Scope with 20-60 zoom		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): A long way!		
Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No	If so, are you submitting photos?	
Who took the photograph(s)?		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Open lake		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Swimming and sleeping and diving.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings -- folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes. Overall dark diving duck. Dark head, neck and body with pale cheeks and throat. Rounded head.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Could not be another species.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen several.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None		
This report was made from (check one) ___ notes made during observation ___ notes made after observation <u>X</u> later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: 03/09/02		
Reporting observer: Rachel Hopper	Signature: <i>Rachel Hopper</i>	
Reporting observer's address: 1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.		
City: Ft. Collins	State: CO	Zip: 80524
<p>Send report to: Colorado Bird Records Committee Tony Leukering PO Box 660 Brighton, CO 80601</p>		

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-93

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Date: 28 October 2001 **Number seen:** one **Sex:** female? **Plumage:** Def. Alternate?

Locality: Standley Lake **Elevation:** about 5850'

Nearest town: Westminster **County:** Jefferson

Time observed: ~0900-1030 MST

Duration of observation: off and on for about 15 minutes during that time

Description: I joined a host of others that was looking for the Black Scoter that Doug Faulkner had found the previous day. After about a half-hour of searching, I finally found it among a small flock of Redheads. We all watched it, off and on, for varying times and got to see it fly twice for a total of about five minutes.

It was a medium-sized diving duck that was basically dark brownish-black with a paler grayish face that appeared slightly divided by a thin, vague brownish vertical bar under the eye. It had an all-black bill without adornments and, for a scoter, was small. The crown and back of the neck were blackish and contrasted fairly strongly with the paler face. The paler color of the face extended onto the throat where it somewhat abruptly ended. In flight, I could discern a small, whitish belly patch. The tail was blackish and held along the water's surface. I did not see the legs. The bird was smaller than the Redheads in the flock and was obviously dumpier than the Redheads. The head was round, unlike the long, slanted heads of the other two species of scoter, but was flatter than the heads of the Redheads.

Similar species eliminated: Both other scoter species are eliminated by size, bill size, and head shape and pattern (face all the same color - no whiter spots anywhere). Ruddy Duck female eliminated by lack of dark eyeline; all Ruddy Ducks eliminated by size, head shape, and coloration. Other female diving ducks by head pattern and lack of back/side color contrast. Male Gadwall eliminated by plumage pattern. Female Gadwall eliminated by diving behavior and lack of strong brown in the plumage.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): No vocalizations heard.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 10s of 1000s each of all three scoter species. I have also seen large numbers of all confusable species.

Light conditions: sun behind me and to my left

Optical equipment used: Leica 32x

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest approach of about 250 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Brian Gibbons, Ric Olson, Larry Semo, Peter Gent, Diana and Don Mullineaux, Eric Zorawicz, Jim Schmoker, Bill Schmoker

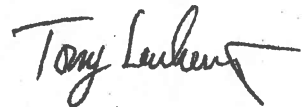
Other observers who saw the bird independently: Doug Faulkner, Larry Semo, Chris Wood, Randy Vernon, Rachel Hopper

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation:



none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:

Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 29 October 2001 from memory

2001-93

Colorado Field Ornithologists' Sight Record Form

CFO-RC FILE #:
RESULTS:

Species: Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) Date(s) of occurrence: Oct 28, 2001
Number of birds seen: one Sex: female Plumage: basic adult
Exact location: Stanley Lake
County: Nearest town: Westminster Elevation: ? 5400 feet
Length of observation: 40 minutes Time(s) of observation: 09:00 to 09:40
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Peter Gent, Brian Gibbons, Tony
Leukering, Don and Diana Mullineaux, Larry Semo
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: sky overcast, wind light
and variable
Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN4, 20-60 zoom
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 400 to 500 yards
Was bird(s) photographed? think so If so, have you submitted photos?
Who took the photographs? Larry Semo
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Reservoir
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in
identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was tightly
associated with a flock of Redheads. Mainly seen swimming around the lake, then
seen flying with the flock and returning to the lake.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report.
Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the
general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including
head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular
emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important
details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were
important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if
photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field
sketches or copy field notes): **The duck was slightly smaller than the
associated Redheads. It was dark brownish black top and bottom except for
an off-white cheek patch. The bill was of similar shape to the Redheads',
i.e., not massive or extremely long.**

Describe bird's call or song: None heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: It was eliminated from the other
scoters and ducks by the face pattern and bill shape.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen a
few in Colorado

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your
identification (during and after observation): Sibley, Guide to Birds, 2000

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later X from memory

Date of written report: Oct 28, 2001

Reporting observer: Signature: Ric Olson

Reporting Observer's Address: 9450 N. Heather Dr., Castle Rock, CO 80104

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee c/o Tony Leukering, PO Box 660,
Brighton, CO 80601

2001-93

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): Black Scoter		(Scientific Name) Melanitta nigra
Date(s) of occurrence: November 27-29, 2001		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Female	Plumage: Juvenal
Exact Location: Standley Lake		
County: Jefferson	Nearest town: Westminster/Arvada	Elevation: XXXX msl
Length of observation: Off and on for roughly an hour over the three days the bird was present on the lake.		Time(s) of observation: Late afternoon on Nov. 27, morning of Nov. 28, and morning of Nov. 29.
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Tony Leukering, Brian Gibbons, Rachel Hopper, Bill Schmoker, Peter Gent, and others.		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Doug Faulkner (Nov. 27)		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): Sunny on Nov. 27, cloudy on Nov. 28, sunny on Nov. 29		
Optical equipment used: 7 X 42 Zeiss Bins, 20-60X Leica Scope		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Variable between roughly 100 to 600 yards		
Was bird(s) photographed? Yes, video	If so, have you submitted photos? Yes, have submitted stills from video	
Who took the photographs? Myself		

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Open water lake**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Mostly just swimming. Some active foraging via diving. Observed in flight on one occasion.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

After I had reported a female White-winged Scoter from Standley Lake on the morning of Nov. 27, 2001, Doug Faulkner birded the reservoir later in the day, finding a female Black Scoter as well. I arrived at Standley Lake in late afternoon (roughly 4 PM) on the same day and found the bird very quickly. I, and many others, also observed the bird the next day and I also observed the bird on the following day, November 29, which I believe may have been the last time the bird was seen on this body of water.

In general, the scoter remained by itself, though on one occasion on November 27, the bird was observed in accompaniment with the female White-winged. Overall, the bird was very dark, appearing black at a distance. In size, it appeared smaller than a Mallard with a "dumper" look, being short-necked, fat-headed with little forehead/crown. The bill was large, gray, and thick basally, but was slightly dished, unlike the globular profiles of other Melanitta's. The crown and nape were very dark brown and offset by a distinct grayish/tan face, throat, and side-neck. The remainder of the bird, including breast, flanks, upperparts, wings, and tail were dark brown. No light face patches were present and no white wing patch was observed, even when in flight. In flight, the primaries from beneath looked gray and contrasted with darker brown secondaries and coverts.



White-winged Scoter was eliminated by the lack of white wing patch, whitish/gray ear and loreal spots, and thicker bill. White-wings are also larger and longer-appearing than Black's. Surf Scoter was eliminated also by the lack of whitish/gray ear and loreal spots and that species has a much thicker, bulbous bill. For a scoter, this bird seemed slightly more "puddle duck" appearing overall with a more rounded head and longer neck than others within that genus.'

A female Harlequin Duck was also easily eliminated by that species lighter brown coloration, distinct white face spots, and much smaller bill.



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **See above**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed hundreds of other birds on Lakes Superior and Michigan in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Have also observed numerous birds on the Atlantic Ocean along both North American and European shores and have observed a few birds also in Alaska. This was my first Colorado sighting of this species.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after **XX** observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **7/14/02**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**