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1405 Little John Rd.
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation for Surf Scoter (Melanitta perspicillata)

Location: Lake Manawa

Date: October 19, 1986

Distance from birds: 200 - 500 feet

Description: There were four dark ducks that were about the same size as gadwalls they were swimming with. The scoters seemed heavier bodied. In flight they had all dark wings and flew low over the water. They had an all dark back, a dark cap on the head extending down the back of the neck. Three of them had a small white spot behind the bill and a large white spot behind the eye. Between the spots there was the appearance of a dark vertical strip. The white face spots of the fourth bird were not as bright or as large. All had dark, sloping bills. The forehead and bill sloped in a slanting, straight line. Neck was thick and short.

Length of sighting: 10:30-10:45 a.m.; 11:30-11:35 a.m.

Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster II 25x

Other observer: Tanya Bray

This documentation is being written on 12/1/86 from notes taken at the time of sighting.