

Tanga Bay

SURF SCOTER (4)

Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County

October 19, 1986 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Description:

Large black sloping bills. Black crown extending down hindneck. Circular whitish dot at base of bill. Darkish, vertical line separating this dot for a larger whitish-gray patch under the dark crown. Wings seen at rest and in flight were completely dark gray-black with no white wing patches. The belly was off-white. Size was smaller than cormorant, and slightly larger than Gadwall, both in direct comparison.

Behavior:

When swimming, often held tails up giving a "Ruddy Duck-like" appearance at a distance. When disturbed by a boat, they flew to a more sheltered cove and began diving and feeding.

Equipment: 25 x scope, 7 x 26 binoculars

Weather: Clear, with sun behind observers

Distance: 200-500 feet

Other observers: Loren and Babs Padelford

Written from notes taken one-half hour after sighting