

Eyes of Lesser Scaup reflect flash.



At dusk on 18 Feb 2007, Cameron Parish, road to jetty at Cameron sewage treatment ponds. We stopped at this spot on the way out to the jetty and checked the borrow pits and sewer ponds and did not see the scoter. On the way back we happened to notice a larger bird with the scaup in the borrow pit next to the road. We stopped and looked at it through binoculars and realized it was a White-winged Scoter. The bird was swimming left to right and DLD took a few photos in the fading light before the bird disappeared behind the vegetation--we could not relocate it and left.

Obvious female scoter, swimming in the drainage ditch next to the road in the company of several female Lesser Scaup (see eye flash and white crescent in front of bill). The very dark photo shows the white wing patch (left hand arrow) and two pale patches on the head (right hand arrow; this bird must have had its eye closed because it did not flash). heavier bodied than nearby scaup, slopping head profile, all dark bill. The duck was all black or blackish-brown, except for the white wing patch.

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7 September 2007

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