

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One bird; this species seems to be amazingly variable. I think the bird was a female, but I have little experience and there may be overlap in facial features that I am not aware of.
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Rutherford beach, about .5 mile W of camps (on 1/28).
On 2/5, one was sighted 1.3 mi W of camps, and it or a similar individual was sighted at 2.7 mi W of the camps 45 minutes later.
4. Date(s) when observed: January 28, 2017; February 5, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: found at about 2:20 in the afternoon.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): afternoon light, sufficient for ID. Bright sunshine on waves, but I was able to move to get the light in my favor.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon scope 20-60x, Samsung S4 phone camera.
11. Distance to bird(s): Probably about 50 yards at closest, then a fairly steady 100 yards or so.
12. Duration of observation: The bird stayed above water the entire time I watched it, but was asleep for about half of the time.
13. Habitat: Gulf waters just out from the beach,
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Constantly diving, staying beneath the surface for ca. 30 seconds at a time, surfacing for 2-3 seconds, then diving again. Bird was seen near scaup and Surf and Black scoters, but didn't appear to be associating with them.
15. Description: A gray and white duck smaller than nearby scaup, overall impression was of dark brown/grayish upperparts, whitish underparts, and a patterned face. Shape somewhat chunky and small-billed, reminding me of Barrow's Goldeneye. Face somewhat hooded, with white on front of head extending back to somewhat of a point in rear contained by dark gray mid- to hindcrown and nape above and behind, and by dark cheek patch on lower part of auriculars and side of neck below. Eye appeared dark set against white face patch. Front of whitish face patch pale brown or buff near bill base. Bill appeared all dark, no pink noted. Dark gray/brown of cheeks extending forward as sort of chinstrap onto chin and throat. Narrow but distinct white

collar below dark cheek patch, bordered below by dark neck sides extending forward into narrow dark lower collar. Description beyond (and even somewhat up to that) conjectural as the bird tucked in to sleep as I was switching to direct scope view sans camera and turning on my recorder to take notes. The bird remained asleep for almost rest of viewing, including a about an hour later on my return.





16. Voice: n/a

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Nothing remarkably similar.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos and video stills attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: I believe this was my fourth encounter with this species, and sixth individual.

20. This description is written from recorded notes from observation, and from study of photos.

21. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes.

22. Date: 01/30/2017

On 2/5, this individual was spotted 1.3 mi W of camps.



This individual—the same bird?—was spotted 45 minutes later 2.7 mi W of the camps. The bird was asleep when located, then woke up, preened, and flew E. I found a bird at 1.6 mi W of the camps a short while later, but was unable to get good looks as it was actively diving. The conservative route = 1 bird.

