

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):
1 male, age unknown
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Holly Beach, offshore from community
4. Date(s) when observed: January 15, 2017

5. Time(s) of day when observed: late afternoon, about 4:00 pm

6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dave Patton, Phillip Wallace
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None that I'm aware of. Mac Myers had an individual of this species at the same location a few weeks prior, but photos show that it was a female and not similar in pattern.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): afternoon light, sufficient for ID.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon scope 20-60x, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): Initially pretty distant, perhaps several hundred yards. Eventually the bird ranged closer to beach and we advanced up the beach to close distance to probably about 50 yards.

12. Duration of observation: Probably about 45 minutes to 1 hour passed from first sighting to farewell, but the bird was initially very difficult to keep tabs on and track due to distance, long dives, and very short stays on the surface. Over the first 30 minutes we probably amassed about 10 total seconds of viewing. Toward the end of the sighting, we were more quickly able to locate the bird between dives and ended up with a long series of satisfying looks.

13. Habitat: Shallow gulf waters

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 small strikingly white and black patterned diving duck.

Head most easily seen body part given behavior. Head with pale gray ground color. Whitish eyering and rear eyeline trailing into a thin white central nape-line, thus when seen from rear forming a white Y from eyes down nape. Thin dark crown stripe from base of bill widening behind level of eye then ending on hindcrown.



Large black patch on sides of neck below narrow gray cheek patch.



Above, black with longitudinal white blaze on shoulders. Below, mainly white although mostly obscured by high waves and low carriage of bird. Some black mottling on breast but extent impossible to judge.

Eyes apparently dark. Bill with black at base, black at nail, and irregularly patterned pinkish between.



16. Voice: n/a

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No very similar species. Partial albinos of other species easily ruled out by plumage, size, and structure.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by all three observers, mine with the least resolution and smallest image sizes. My photos are attached here.

19. Previous experience with this species: Probably only my third encounter with this species.

20. This description is written from mental notes and comparisons during observation, and from study of photos.

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

22. Date: 01/20/2017