

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Long-tailed Duck*, *Clangula hyemalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *3 female/immature types (one poss. male)*
3. Locality: Parish: Cameron  
Specific Locality: Rutherford Beach
4. Date(s) when observed: *17 February 2018*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1400 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Meribeth Huizinga*
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): *none to my knowledge, but I several people (Paul Conover?) saw Long-tailed Duck(s?) at Rutherford Beach later in the spring*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *overcast sky during mid-afternoon, with the birds always to my east (or SSE), so relatively bright, but muted light, no glare*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition), Pentax PF-80EDa spotting scope (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *300-400 m*

12. Duration of observation: 45 min, off-and-on

13. Habitat: near-shore Gulf of Mexico

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The three LTDU were always close together, and never with other birds. I would occasionally lose sight of them, as they would swim or float out of view beneath wave crests or when I would try to move east to get closer, and then re-find them. They seemed to spend most of the time resting/floating on the water, but they made one 100ish-m flight (as a group), and began actively diving/foraging during the latter 10 min of the observation.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species): Medium-sized ducks with relatively small, dark bills and distinctive masked head patterns: two birds were fairly similar with broad white areas around the eyes contrasting with dark/blackish in the crown and the area below the auriculars; a third bird (male?) had a more dramatic pattern with a broad white eye mask tapering to a point behind the eye and seemingly completely surrounded by black. Backs and upper wings generally uniformly dark on water and in flight. White flanks visible on water and in flight.

16. Voice: Not known to be vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Distinctive ducks with unique white-black head patterns that easily distinguish them from other diving ducks that may have indistinct or sex/age-variable pale areas on head (e.g., Ruddy Duck, scoters, etc.). Harlequin Duck has more uniformly dark head with different light-dark pattern.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen many Long-tailed Ducks in various places (Great Lakes, west coast) over the years, and recently one at the Crowley Wastewater facility.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from: X notes made during the observation  
(       notes attached?);        notes made after the observation (date:       );  
       memory; X images taken during the observation.

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

23. Date: 29 April 2018 Time: 1100 CDT

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or  
portions of this report on its website? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes







