

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 age and sex unknown
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Broussard Beach, ca. 4 miles E of Cameron
4. Date(s) when observed: 10 November 2018

5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 12:50 p.m.

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

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
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):
Overcast but adequate.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon scope 20-60x, Nikon d3300 with 200 mm lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): 200-300 yards

12. Duration of observation: about 1 minute

13. Habitat: Gulf nearshore

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): As I was scoping the sea and watching flocks of scaup and puddle ducks pass by, I saw a lone, large duck coming. Size was obvious with naked eye. I scoped the bird and saw that it was dark and had large white wing flashes, so I switched to camera and started snapping pictures hoping for something definitive in terms of documentation. The bird continued flying W to E until finally out of sight far to the east.

15. Description: A large, dark, heavy sea duck seen in flight showing white wings patches along its secondaries.



16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Other scoters by white in wing. From dabblers with white in wing by body size and shape. From mergansers by shape and overall coloration. From grebes with white in wings by shape.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos with tiny images by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Annual or nearly so in recent years.

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: 11/22/2018