

# 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 female age unknown
3. Locality: Cameron Parish  
Specific Locality: Broussard Beach, ca. 4 miles E of Cameron
4. Date(s) when observed: 18 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): WWSC was in a flock of Surf Scoter on the water nearshore. Birds were originally a little closer, but right as I began scoping, fishermen pulled up on the beach and got out of their cars, causing the birds to move out 2-3 times farther than they had been. Seas were rough enough to keep views limited, and birds were mainly diving, so getting images was difficult.
  
15. Description: A large, dark, diving duck with distinct white secondaries. Head appeared small and sculpted and neck longer and more muscular next to the blocky heads of the Surfs. Bill more like Canvasback than like Surf, but with more concavity on culmen. Bird overall dark, with browner body and darker neck, paler underwings and belly. White patches on face sides ovals, with rear oval longer on the vertical axis, fore patch longer on horizontal axis extending onto bill feathering.



16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Only similar species expected is Surf Scoter. White wing patch, and anterior face patch not straight-sided but rounded out onto bill sides indicate different contour of bill base from Surf.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Video stills by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Annual-ish in recent years; birds are still rare enough here that I've spent a lot of time studying the details of each.

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