

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 10:48 a.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): Down to perhaps one hundred yards
12. Duration of observation: a little over 30 seconds
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): I saw a large dark duck approaching from the west, head on. I got onto it through the scope and concentrated on the wings. The bird banked as though decoying in to a flock of scaup on the water, and a large white secondary patch was visible so I switched to camera and started photographing.
15. Description: A large, dark, heavy-bodied sea duck with powerful but heavy flight. Some paler areas were detected on face, but exact pattern not observed. Secondaries were a clear-cut polygonal white panel that contrasted strongly with the rest of the wing. Head shape was somewhat blocky, bill was somewhat bulky.



16. Voice: not heard

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

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Poor photos, but white in wing is visible.

19. Previous experience with this species: Annual 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: 11/17/2018