

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: *White-winged Scoter, Melanitta fusca*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *One immature male*
3. Locality: Parish: Iberia
Specific Locality: Spanish Lake (SE corner; i.e., Iberia Parish)
4. Date(s) when observed: *18 February 2019*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1325 & 1400 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *none*
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): *Discovered/reported by Eric Ripma, 2 d prior; subsequently by M. Musumeche and others, some of whom reported it in St Martin Parish via the eBird hotspot. [Note that eBird hotspot, however, is positioned in the St Martin portion of the lake, despite 60-70 % of lake being in Iberia Parish. To my knowledge, and for what it's worth, the WWSC occurred only in the SE corner of the lake, in Iberia Parish.]*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Muted, but bright, light of early afternoon beneath overcast sky; various angles in relation to sun*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *30-40 m*

12. Duration of observation: 5 min

13. Habitat: Water near shoreline of lake, sheltered by wooded spoil bank/island located 70-150 m out in lake

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Seemed to be resting near (on?) riprap shoreline with Lesser Scaup, but I only observed it swimming away from the shoreline. Both times I saw the bird (during same visit to lake), I seemed to flush both it and the scaup away from the bank, after which they would swim around and rest on the water, never seeming very concerned about me, but clearly wanting some distance between us.

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): Large, essentially all-blackish/dark brown duck (notably larger than Lesser Scaup, which was always closeby). [I never saw underparts.] Large, blocky head shape with flat crown and long, sloping forehead. Bill pinkish (distal to feathering that extends down to nares; and indicating male). Bold white secondaries clearly visible in folded wing from every angle that I saw.

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Large, nearly all-blackish ducks with sloping head-bill shapes, some degree of pale blotching on their heads, and some orange-pink color in their bills are the three species of scoter. Surf and Black scoters are both convincingly eliminated by this bird's obvious white secondaries (as well as other characters).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photo attached, by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Have seen many WWSC over the years in the west, midwest, and east coast, and a handful in the south

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: notes made during the observation (notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date:); memory; images taken during the observation.

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

23. Date: 12 April 2019 Time: 1200

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

