

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 when submitting records for review. Please fill in all relevant fields below and hit the submit button to send.

To send additional documentation [including scans, digital images, etc.]
click on this link

[LBRC E-Mail](#)

and attach materials to the e-mail.

Please put "LBRC Documentation" in the subject header of your e-mail.

If you would like a copy of your report mailed back to you, please send a request with your attachments. You will also be given a link to e-mail a request upon submission of this form.

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

Chris LaFarge, 89 Branch Marsh NWF office

1. English and Scientific names:

White-winged Scoter
Melanitta fusca

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

2 male

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish)

St Tammany Parish

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Specific Locality:

1/2 mile of the shore line of Lake Pontchartrain south of mouth of Bayou Lacombe. Seen from a 17 foot work boat.

4. Date(s) when observed:

December 17, 2007
North Shore CBC

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

10:00 AM

6. Reporting observer and address:

Dave Patton
122 Memory Lane
Lafayette, LA 70506

E-mail address:

w dpatton@cox.net

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

Chris LaRouge, Big Branch Marsh NWF officer

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):

clear sky, bright sun, birds flew into good lighting as they moved away from sun.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

8.5 binocs

11. Distance to bird(s):

30 to 50 yards

12. Duration of observation:

30 seconds as they flushed from water and flew off.

13. Habitat:

Open lake. Water depth unknown, but about 5 feet with about 2 foot visibility. About 1 foot seas.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Drifting on the water. One associating with another scoter and the other a single. By the time we spotted them they were moving away from us as we idled along looking for ducks on the water.

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):

The ducks flushed from the surface just as we detected them ahead of us. They accelerated quickly and flew in a strong steady flight low to the water. They were large heavy ducks with strong wing beats. Larger than the many Bufflehead and smaller than the Common Loons. The crown sloped straight to the bill tip giving the horse head shape. The bodies were all dark looking completely black. The wings were black above except for a bright white patch of feathers formed by white secondaries.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Other scoters eliminated by the bold w hite w ing patch. Other ducks on the w ater w ere Horned Grebes that bounced along the surface as they took off and had considerable w hite visible on the bodies. Bufflehead females w ere much smaller and flew higher above the w ater in mixed groups of males and females. Merganzers had different flight profile and pale bodies. Common Loons w ere larger, brow n and w hite, and loafing on the w ater. Three other scoters seen on the day. One surf and two o all dark left as scoter sp.

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

No photo. Sketch right after observation attached.

19. Previous experience with this species:

A few other scoters along LA coast.

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

a. at time of observation:

Nat'l Geo, Sibleys

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from (notes taken at time of observation? after observation? from memory?):

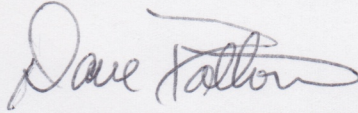
Notes taken at time of observation, and memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes. Definitely scoters and the white patch eliminates other species.

23. Reporter:

Dave Patton

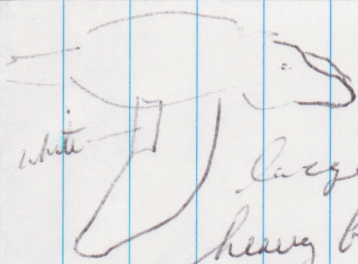


b. Date and time

December 20 2007, 07:00

24. Do you give the LBRC permission to display this report on its website?

- YES, the LBRC may display report and accompanying documentation**
- NO, the LBRC may NOT display report or accompanying documentation**



white
large black duck
heavy body - bright white
wing patch - inner ~~primary~~ ^{secondary}
sloping forehead.

Field notes from 12/17/2007
White winged Scoter.

Dave Tallon