

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 adult female
3. Locality: Parish: Orleans  
Specific Locality: Lake Pontchartrain – Haynes Blvd x Gannon Rd
4. Date(s) when observed: 15 February 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:00-11:35
6. Reporting observer and address:  
Phillip Wallace  
4515 S. Prieur St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Ken Rosenberg (discovered), David Muth, Dan Purrington
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): Excellent; sun behind observers
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Kowa 22-60x scope
11. Distance to bird(s): 100-200 m
12. Duration of observation: 15-20 minutes
13. Habitat: Open water of Lake Pontchartrain
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Swimming, preening
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): Saw-billed duck with dark reddish head and white underparts, showing a sharp demarcation between reddish neck and white upper breast, longer feathers on back of head giving a more disheveled appearance than RBME, white chin, gray back with paler gray mottled flanks, red bill thicker at the base than the adjacent RBME, the bird was overall larger than the adjacent RBME

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): RBME eliminated by sharp demarcation between neck and breast along with white chin and other features stressed above.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photographs by Wallace accompany this report. Photos also by Rosenberg and Muth.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen a few times in other parts of the country and once before in LA.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): None

21. This description is written from: x memory and photos.

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

23. Date: 26 February 2015

Time: 6: 00 a.m.





Common Merganser  
Haynes Blvd  
2/15/2015 11:33:59 AM



Common Merganser  
Haynes Blvd  
2/15/2015 11:34:53 AM

