

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: [Common Merganser](#)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1 F](#)
3. Parish: [Iberville](#)
Specific Locality: [LSU Reproductive Biology Center, St. Gabriel, LA](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [15 March 18](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [0745+](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [Van Remsen, LSUMNS](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Andre Moncrieff](#)
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): [Good but somewhat back-lit – see photos](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10x50 binos](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [100 m](#)
12. Duration of observation: [three times for a total of about 5 minutes.](#)
13. Habitat: [farm pond, artificial, ca. 100 m in length](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **This report is submitted only to report what is certainly the same bird at same spot of initial December sighting, although the bird had been looked for a few times in the intervening weeks without success. In fact, it was present for perhaps fewer than 5 hours in December, and likewise today was gone by late morning. I first found the bird while scouting before Ornithology field trip class arrived, and immediately backed off in hopes it would stay; then, Andre and class arrived, and they all got to see it as well. Presumably, the bird wintered somewhere in the general vicinity, such as Spanish Lake, and only visited the Ag Center ponds occasionally. The chances that two birds are involved are near zero, given rarity in LA.**

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): **Obvious large merganser with sharply defined reddish head and white throat on gray body --- see photo**

16. Voice: **silent**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Red-breasted would have paler, less sharply defined head and no obviously circumscribed throat patch. Etc.**

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

19. Previous experience with this species: **Extensive in Colorado and elsewhere in West**

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:

X	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S43668056
	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	

-
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | memory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | study of images |

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

23. Date: **13 April 18**

Time:

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**