

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: Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 female in alternate plumage.
3. Parish: Claiborne Parish

Specific Locality: Private pond in front yard of residence of Clayton Hays; LA Hwy 9 between Homer and Athens.

4. Date(s) when observed: December 3, 2017.

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:00am

6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): somewhat overcast but still pretty bright.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x42 binoculars in very good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 20 feet.

12. Duration of observation: 25 minutes

13. Habitat: private freshwater pond about an acre in size in the front yard of a rural residence.

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

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*): I was driving by on my way to Homer, and I glanced to my right at the pond. I noticed a small white and black duck on the near side of pond that didn't appear to be a Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, or other normal candidate, and I thought it looked exactly like a Long-tailed Duck. I pulled in (not trespassing; have permission to bird there because the landowner and I grew up together.), and I grabbed my binoculars and started taking photos. All black and white plumage with white face, smudgy dark crown and smudgy dark at base of head and upper neck; lower neck and back of neck white. Bill mostly gray, somewhat short and not very flat or wide. Eye brown. Folded wings all dark; darker on flight feathers and coverts with paler edging to tertials, even with a bit of rust color in some photos. Flanks white in photos with wings slightly high up but still folded. Rump white with wide black stripe descending from back down through the middle of the rump to the tail. Tail rested flat on the water and was all dark. Feet and belly not seen.

16. Voice: N/A.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Bufflehead female, 1st winter male, and basic plumaged male are all small and black and white, but all plumages/sexes show far more black on head, especially in front of the eye and down the back of the neck. Flanks are also not white. Male Common Goldeneye has much less white on face, even less than BUFF. Basic plumage male Ruddy Duck has gray flanks, larger bill relative to size of head, and sharply delineated black cap and white cheeks. Female and young male scoters all have large bills, dark flanks, and differently patterned face.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Have seen one female in Arkansas, about 4-5 years ago.

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

a. at time of observation: Nat Geo , Sibley just to verify.

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

memory

study of images

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

23. Date: January 14, 2018

Time: 11:25am

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? _____



