

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Masked Duck
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 Adult Female
3. Parish: Tar Slough, 1513 Leonard Road, Caddo Parish (south of Shreveport)  
Specific Locality: 32-22'-05"N-93-40'-46"W
4. Date(s) when observed: June 26-July 24, 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: best viewed in early morning however it was also out in the afternoon. Mostly it sat hidden during midday.
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul M. Dickson
City: 10455 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport
State: LA 71106
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Many observers including LBRC members.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Charles Lyon
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Photos attached taken with Nikon 600mm lens
11. Distance to bird(s): usually 60-100 yards, as is the case with the photos.
12. Duration of observation:
13. Habitat: 15 acre shallow impoundment within a 100 acre managed historic wetland. Vegetation very dense, almost no open water. Depth .3m-.8m. Emergent aquatic plants: Giant Cutgrass-*Zizaniopsis miliacea*, Alligatorweed- *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, Submerged plants: Southern Naiad- *Najas guadalupensis*, *Hydrilla verticillata*,

filamentous algae. The duck used a small area (800 sq. m.) of this one pond despite apparently suitable habitat surrounding and in an adjacent impoundment.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): resting, feeding in loose association to close association with 2-4 Ruddy Ducks and 2 Pied-billed Grebes.

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*): Initially identified as similar to Ruddy Duck but with the "extra" stripe on face, actually a strong eye-line from base of bill to nape. Another stripe line below eye, bill profile steeper, shorter than Ruddy Duck and not smooth with a heavier terminal nail to bill. Rich brown crown restricted to dorsal surface of head only compared to Ruddy Duck, light background on face lighter and more buff. Overall the head had a rich cinnamon-brown tone possibly indicating a breeding season female though there is little published data on this. Back mottled and lighter than Ruddy Duck. Tail brown and spine-like and very long, longer than in adjacent Ruddy Ducks. In flight, rose abruptly, flew straight and rapidly with rapid wingbeats and showed a squarish white wing patch in the secondaries. Profile in the water was low and bird sulked often with head and body very close to the water surface. When threatened it lowered down like this in Alligatorweed and at times disappeared from sight this way.

16. Voice: not heard

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

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): 2 attached by Jacob Kraemer. Initial sighting photos available at [www.pinola.net](http://www.pinola.net)

19. Previous experience with this species: seen once at Santa Ana NWR , Texas.

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

a. at time of observation: North American Ducks, Geese and Swans by Frank Todd (2018).

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
x	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	080518
x	memory		
x	study of images		

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

23. Date: initially June 26, 2018  
Time: 8:30 am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?  
\_\_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, may we include your name with the report? \_\_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_



