

# 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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Masked Duck, *Nomonyx dominicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one female
3. Locality: Parish: Caddo  
Specific Locality: Paul Dickson's property "Tar Slough," ca. 0.4 mi SW of Leonard Rd bridge over Bayou Pierre
4. Date(s) when observed: 27 June 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca. 0730-0815 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Paul Conover and Mac Myers; we also met Paul Dickson, and overlapped with Van Remsen, Oscar Johnson, and Andre Moncrieff, at the site
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Paul Dickson discovered the bird the previous day; many folks observed it subsequently
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good, early morning light (about 1.5-2 h after sunrise), under a clear sky, looking at the bird to our west (and the sun behind us)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binoculars (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition), Pentax PF-80EDA spotting scope (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 130 m (measurement in Google Earth)

12. Duration of observation: about 45 min

13. Habitat: marsh impoundment managed for waterfowl

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Generally resting and preening, if memory serves (if foraging, then I don't recall details) in/among aquatic vegetation; associating with two male and two female Ruddy Ducks.

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): A small, stiff-tailed duck, generally similar in size and structure to Ruddy Duck (direct comparison). Distinctive series of blackish and pale buffy stripes on head, with dark crown bordered below by pale buffy supercilium, bordered below by two lateral dark stripes interspersed by pale buffy stripes. Black head stripes, and dark-buff striped head pattern in general, more distinct than superficially similar pattern of female Ruddy Duck. Brighter buff on sides of neck, nape and breast than female Ruddy Duck. Back pattern of dark and buffy vermiculations more distinct than that of female Ruddy.

16. Voice: not known to be vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Female/immature Ruddy Duck the most likely candidate for confusion, given superficially similar pattern of light and dark striping on head, and geographic range. Ruddy Duck eliminated by more buffy tones of head, neck, and breast, and additional dark stripe on face, as described above (note that there were also two female Ruddy Ducks nearby for comparison). Other stiff-tailed ducks also considered, due to Dickson's nearby aviary, which holds (I think) all of the world's stiff-tailed duck species *except* Masked Duck. No *Oxyura* spp. (or *Heteronetta*) similar to Masked Duck female's two dark lateral stripes on head.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Minimal; seen once in TX and a handful of times in the tropics

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: [Sibley Guide](#); [Madge and Burn \(1988\) Waterfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the world.](#)

21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation ( notes attached?);  notes made after the observation (date: );  memory;  images taken during the observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: [Yes, positive of ID. No evidence of questionable provenance, as Masked Duck is not kept in captivity \(P. Dickson, pers. comm.\). Also, a pattern of vagrancy appears to be emerging in the region, with recent records near Dallas, TX \(June 2008\) and in southern Oklahoma \(Sep 2017\).](#)

23. Date: [\\_01 Feb 2019\\_](#) Time: [\\_2045\\_](#)

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\\_](#)

