

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: **White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta fusca deglandi*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One female-type
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **St. Tammany Parish**

Specific Locality: **off Oak Harbor Blvd. and West End Ave., Howze Beach in Slidell**
4. Date(s) when observed: **3 December 2014**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~3:30 – 4:15 PM CST**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler**
14112 Crossing Way East
Edmond, OK 73013
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **N/A**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Phillip Prater again on 9 December.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Mostly cloudy sky with suboptimal afternoon sunlight. Sun angle fairly high and away from observer. Backlighting or glare not problematic.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Kowa TSN 88 series w/ 88 mm angled eyepiece (40-60x zoom), Canon Powershot HS 110 digital elph point-and-shoot camera (equipment in excellent condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **ca. 75 meters**

12. Duration of observation: **~45 min.**

13. Habitat: **Open brackish (predominantly freshwater) lake along sandy/ rip-rap shoreline, various emergent structures in shallow water, suburban residential, etc.**

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

Only observed actively diving just offshore with small group of Greater and Lesser Scaups. Loosely associated with both scaup. Occasionally preening in between dives. Nearly constantly in motion. Not observed in flight.

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 large, nearly all-black seaduck with uniform blackish upperparts and underparts. Dark blackish-brown head with white patch at bill base and behind eyes (whitish auriculars). Mantle/ wings darker than brownish breast, sides, and flanks. Conspicuous bold, white wing patch on secondaries. All-dark undertail coverts and tail. Dark blackish bill. Legs/ feet not clearly seen. Dark irides.

16. Voice: **N/A**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Both Surf Scoter (SUSC) and Black Scoter (BLSC) can be eliminated by head and bill size/ structure/ shape (proportionately longer and more sloping in White-winged) and also by diagnostic white wing patch on secondaries (visible on folded wing as well).

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

photos by Devin Bosler. **Yes, attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

Very familiar with this species from many U.S. states on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts in addition to several occasions in coastal and interior LA on Gulf of Mexico.

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **Various online/ web resources.**

21. This description is written from: **Yes** notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); **Yes** notes made after the observation (date: _____); **Yes** memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **16 April 2015** Time: **7:00 PM CDT**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **Yes, please.**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **Yes, please.**





