

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

Oscar Johnson
Louisiana State University
119 Foster Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
ojohns7@lsu.edu

Species: White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta deglandi*
Location: Capitol Lake, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana
Date: 11 November 2020
Age and sex: possibly a first cycle female.
Molt status: Unknown
Number of individuals: One
Other observers: Robb Brumfield, Dan Lane, Nick Ramsey
Original observer: Nick Ramsey

Circumstances: A few minutes after getting a message from Nick Ramsey that he had found this bird, I headed over to the lakes and joined Robb, Dan, and Nick to look at the bird. We were able to relocate it as it was actively diving at the far northern end of the lake. It stayed close to the shoreline and was tough to see at times. Despite the failing light I was able to get a workable photo. Humid, 75 degrees, light N wind, mostly clear skies. eBird list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76137877>

Description: Female type (juvenile, I think). A large dark blackish duck, a bit larger than nearby scaup and Hooded Mergansers. Sitting lower in the water than either of those species. Entirely dark blackish other than a few prominent patches of white; two on the side of the head and on on the wing speculum. The two patches on the side of the head were circular, the one in front of the eye somewhat better defined than the one behind the eye. The white wing speculum was visible while the bird was at rest, but most obvious as it dove. At one point the bird rolled over on its side and revealed a slightly paler lower belly.

Discussion: A straightforward identification. Other scoters lack white in the wing.

