

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: White-winged Scoter (Melanitta Fusca)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
Two birds, one female and one young adult male. When I went back an hour and half later, I saw and photographed what I believe was a third bird, a male.
3. Parish: Jefferson  
Specific Locality: Linear Path on south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, immediately east of the levee access point at Transcontinental Boulevard and Folsé.
4. Date(s) when observed: Saturday, February 1, 2020.
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:20 a.m. the first time. Returned at 10 a.m. with camera.
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jon Wise
City: Metairie
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): On the second attempt, I was accompanied by Samuel Clark, my son-in-law, who was visiting from Wellesely, Massachusetts. He visually picked out the bird as well from the raft of scaups and confirmed his identification with a field guide.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): I am aware that the birds were seen shortly afterward by James Beck and Linda Kingsland and after that by Jody Shugart. The following day, one or more of the birds was seen by Dan Purrington, Cathy DiSalvo and Missy Bowen, according to their reports on e-Bird.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny. Birds were easily visible with naked eye and binoculars as sun was low and behind me.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 8x 42 Nikon Monarch Binoculars and 100-600 Tamron zoom lens mounted on a Canon EOS Rebel camera.
11. Distance to bird(s): 30-50 yards, varying. The birds were generally staying together with a raft of Lesser Scaup, but there was a north wind that created waves that moved them around a bit.
12. Duration of observation: 20 minutes the first time and about ten minutes the second.
13. Habitat: Lake Pontchartrain, brackish, brown water in shallow area close to the shoreline.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Birds were all observed resting on water and occasionally diving, like the scaups. None flew while I was present. I was walking my dog on the path and stopped to observe the Lesser Scaup, which have been fairly common over the past month in this location. While checking to see if any other duck species were mixed in, I saw the two scoters who stood out visually, although they were not apart from the scaup but right in the middle of them.

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*): The male was black with a clearly observed white speculum and an orange bill. Having seen males before in Baton Rouge (Pennington pond) and in Alaska, I thought this bird was on the small side, though that may have been the effect of the waves. The female was more of a chocolate brown and had a white patch below and in front of its eye but lacked a patch behind the eye. Its bill was darker, though in the sunlight it initially seemed a little orange as well.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The nearby ducks were all Lesser Scaup, smaller, different shaped heads and bills, with white on the sides and generally looking like scaup.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): I obtained photos of one bird on my second trip. I know that James Beck and Jody Shugart obtained photos as well and shared them on the Facebook LABIRD site.

19. Previous experience with this species: Have seen them twice- one male at Pennington Biomedical pond in Baton Rouge off Perkins Road, and a number in Nome, Alaska in June, 2018.

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

a. at time of observation: Both

b. after observation: Both, as well as Sibley.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	2/1/20 posted in eBird
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: February 3, 2020  
Time: 10:15 a.m.

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





