

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: [White-winged Scoter](#) (*Melanitta deglandi*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1 female, age unknown](#)

3. Parish: [St. Bernard](#)

Specific Locality: [Bay side of northern Chandeleur Island, approximately 29.978, - 88.852](#)

4. Date(s) when observed: [28 November 2023](#)

5. Time(s) of day when observed: [10:00am](#)

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: Sunset
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Rob Dobbs, Chloe St. Germain-Vermillion, Blake Lamb, Amanda Douglas](#)

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): [none](#)

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [sunny, was looking west/northwest with sun to southeast](#)

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10x42 Vortex Razor binoculars, good condition; Nikon D7200 with Sigma 150-600mm f/4.5-6.3 lens, good condition](#)

11. Distance to bird(s): A couple hundred meters
12. Duration of observation: about 15-30 seconds
13. Habitat: Open saltwater behind (west of) northern Chandeleur Island
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying to the north, mixed with 14 Black Scoters.
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*): We had already seen a few small groups of Black Scoters, so were looking for more. As this group flew by, bold white secondaries jumped out against a dark bird, so I immediately started taking photographs, which revealed the other key details: 1) the bird was slightly bigger than the Black Scoters, 2) it was all dark except for a white patch behind the ear and a pale white patch near the base of the bill, 3) the bill was long and somewhat evenly sloped.
16. Voice: not heard
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): There are a number of "white-winged" waterfowl that are possible, including Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted/Common Merganser, Gadwall, and one could generously include Bufflehead or American Wigeon in this group. However, none would have the body and head pattern of this bird.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, five of my sharpest photos are included.
19. Previous experience with this species: Seen extensively in the northeast, and a few times in Louisiana. Also familiar with the other species of scoters, both of which I also saw this day.
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
- a. at time of observation: none
- b. after observation: Sibley Guide to NA Birds, 2nd Ed. (to check female vs first winter)

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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: **9 March 2024**

Time: **9:30 pm**

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**



