

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 deglandi*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
3, unable to determine sex or age. All dark with white rectangle of secondary feathers. No other white or visible markings seen.
3. Locality: Parish: St. Tammany _____
Specific Locality: Sunset Point Mandeville

4. Date(s) when observed: December 4, 2024
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:30pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Claire Thomas, 19170 Antenor St., Mandeville, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): NA
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): NA
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast. Birds flying eye level from west to east and I was facing south. Even light with no deep shadows. Birds were angled with mostly back showing.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Canon 10x42, image stabilizer binoculars. Excellent condition.

11. Distance to bird(s): I am terrible at estimating distance. I was standing at the fence of Sunset point and the birds flew at eye level east to west over the fishing pier and directly in front of me. Maybe 200 to 300ft.

12. Duration of observation: They flew past rapidly but I was able to get my binoculars on them briefly.

13. Habitat: Lake Ponchartrain

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Birds were flying past but close enough for me to get a good look. I was at Sunset Point to observe the Black Scoters that have been there for some time. I was standing looking at them when the three birds flew almost directly over them and past me. They were in my line of sight so I got my eyes and binocs on them quickly.

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): Large blackish ducks with big white patches at base of wings. The only white visible was on the secondary feathers. The white was solid and didn't fade off into the primaries. Their necks were longer and more streamlined while a Bufflehead has a more bulbous/rounded head. The white on the secondaries did not go any further up the wing and looked like a solid rectangle unlike the white on a Bufflehead and Goldeneye. Their head, neck and body were all dark and close to the same color unlike adult female Buffleheads that have a dark head but lighter neck and body. Quite larger than a Bufflehead. Flying east past the point and just over the heads of the group of Black Scoters.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Their necks were longer and more streamlined while a Bufflehead has a more bulbous/rounded head. The white on the secondaries did not go any further up the wing and looked like a solid rectangle unlike the white on a Bufflehead and Goldeneye. Their head, neck and body were all dark and close to the same color unlike adult female Buffleheads that have a dark head but lighter neck and body. Quite larger than a

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Non taken

19. Previous experience with this species: Feb. 7, 2014 at Pennington Biomedical Research Lab in East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): The Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America and iBird Pro app.

a. at time of observation: The Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America and iBird Pro app

b. after observation: The Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America and iBird Pro app

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

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes. The white secondaries were very visible and no other white was observed on the birds. They were in a good position for me to see them and the light was good. I am very familiar with Buffleheads and other common ducks. I look for the white and the rectangular white patch was distinctive.

23. Date: Decemeber 9, 2024_____ Time: 8:14am_____

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_____

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