

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: White-winged Scoter - *Melanitta deglandi*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One adult, female type, in basic plumage
3. Parish:
Caddo
4. Specific Locality:
Cross Lake
5. Date(s) when observed: 11/21/25
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 7:30 AM
7. Reporting observer: Caleb Persia
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
None initially, but I was joined within the hour by others to refind the bird
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Royal Tyler, JD Flores, Charlie Lyons
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Fantastic lighting, the sun was rising and the bird stayed out in the open in direct light
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Monarch M5s
12. Distance to bird(s): Directly on the shoreline 5-10 yards out
13. Duration of observation: 2-3 hours
14. Habitat: Fresh water lakefront/marina
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Feeding and diving often, unbothered by my presence and the workers/boaters passing by

16. 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):

Long dark-brown duck with "goofy" long bumpy seaduck bill. Pale facial patch and white earmuff. White wing patch was obscured initially but the bird preened occasionally or would move in a way to flash the wing patch to rule out the other two Scoters. At a distance this might have been a difficult ID, but views were excellent.

17. Voice: Did not vocalize at any point.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Surf was also present, but this bird had the trademark white on wing, as well as the more distinct white earmuff over the smaller patch on Surf. Bill was large and ruled out BLSC

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photos by me

20. Previous experience with this species: Extensive. Worked alongside all three NA scoter species during my time at Pinola Conservancy. Saw White-winged Scoters multiple times a week for close to a year.

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

None

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

11/22/25

25. 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

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

