

TO: LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, L.O.S.

FROM: GAY G. CRAFT, 2400 TOWN LAKE CIRCLE, #245 AUSTIN, TX 78741
OR 44 WILLOW DR., GRETNA, LA. 70053

SPECIES: EURASIAN WIGEON (adult male)

DATE: 9 JANUARY 1990

LOCATION: PORT FOURCHON, LAFOURCHE PARISH -
THERIOT ROAD, about 4/10 mile from Fourchon Rd.
(La. 3090)

WEATHER: CLEAR, TEMP. IN MID-60s, SW wind about 5mph

TIME OF OBSERVATION: approx. 11:15 AM to just before 12 noon

OBSERVER: Gay Craft

OPTICS: Bushnell 7 to 21 x 40 Zoom binoculars, 21 power utilized,
initially hand-held, then steadied on car roof

OTHERS IN PARTY: Russell Gomez

DESCRIPTION: While scanning a large flock of American Wigeon (approximately 200) moving slowly on the water, occasionally feeding, ^{with} about 200-230 yards (north of Theriot Road), I spotted a bird which I first thought to be a Redhead. The bird swam slowly and presented a side view; its reddish head and light, grayish sides clearly distinguished it from the American wigeon around it. As I continued to watch the bird in the

excellent light (the sun was relatively high and at my back; heat waves were minimal), the view from other angles led me to question my initial thoughts on its identity. Repeated frontal views showed not only a light bill, but also a light forehead and crown identical in extent to those of nearby American wigeon. At this point I realized that a very careful examination was necessary, so I moved to the side of the car to steady my binoculars on its roof. After several anxious minutes of searching, I relocated the bird and continued to observe its light forehead and crown, noting a slight difference in ^{their} color (very light peach or off-white) from the white of the American wigeon. The bird then began to feed like those wigeon around it: it tipped; it did not dive. When the bird was tipped, I had a good view of its posterior and observed a white band separating the black undertail coverts from the gray sides. After briefly resting my eyes and checking the field guide for additional identifying characteristics, I was fortunate to again relocate the bird. It continued to feed at intervals, between which I was able to discern the bird's light (rather than black) breast. I attempted to show the bird to my father, Russell Gomez, but he was unable to pick it out (it was rather difficult to do so while the birds were feeding). Despite its unlikely occurrence in southeastern Louisiana, I am convinced by my observations that the bird in question is an adult male Eurasian Wigeon.

Gay E. Craft
10 January 1990

L. O. S Bird Records Committee Report Form

1. **English and scientific name:** Eurasian Wigeon. Anas penelope.
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** One male.
3. **Locality:** Louisiana, LaFourche Parish. Lake at Pt. Fourchon.
4. **Date(s) seen:** 14 Jan 1990.
5. **Times of day seen:** 0950 - 1015
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Al and Gwen Smalley, 88 Egret Street, New Orleans, LA 70124.
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** John Sevenair.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** Bird found and identified by Gay Craft.
9. **Light conditions:** Light overcast with intermittent sunshine.
10. **Optical equipment:** 40X Kowa scope.
11. **Distance to bird:** (?) About 75 yards.
12. **Duration of observation:** 25 minutes.
13. **Habitat:** Shallow brackish (almost fresh) lake.
14. **Behavior:** Feeding; did not preen, did not fly. Was with American Wigeons, but no female around. Something of a "loner", sometimes feeding with American Wigeons, at other times swimming around by itself.
15. **Description:** Typical Anas duck, floating lightly on the water with tail raised. Light reddish head and neck, lighter and with a more cinnamon cast than Redhead. Breast even lighter, with a somewhat rosy color, diminishing posteriorly. Crown very light yellow, appearing white at a distance, but distinctly yellow when compared with nearby American Wigeon. Pale gray sides followed by white area, then black posterior. Bill blue with a dark tip.

Bill size, profile, all other proportion similar to American Wigeons. (Conspicuous white area between gray flanks and black posterior not entered in notes, but shows up well in slides).

16. Voice: Wigeons constantly calling, but no distinctive call from the E. Wigeon could be discerned.

17. Similar species: Very similar to American Wigeon in all respects except color of head and flanks. No other similar bird when close enough to see details of color. Redhead with darker red color on head, lacks light yellow crown and white postero-lateral white area, has black breast, and has Aythya profile.

18. Photographs: Two slides by Gwen included. Taken with a 500 mm mirror lens with a doubler.

19. Previous experience with species: Gwen - several in Alaska, one in New Orleans in 1980, numerous observations in England and Spain; Al - one in New Orleans in 1980, numerous observations in England and Spain.

20. Aids: Books etc. (a) at time of observation: None (b) after observation: Geo Guide.

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.

22. Are you positive of your observation? Yes. All waterfowl are open to suspicion as "escapes". Unlikely for this bird for two reasons, (1) remoteness of location, distant from any known source of captive birds, (2) fairly regular occurrence on northern coasts.

23. Signature of reporter:

Al Small 

24. Date and time of this account: 16 Jan 90; 2130 hrs.

Windy, overcast, no sun
Eurasian Wigeon 14 Jan 1990

0950, to 1015

Reddish head and neck, continuing
somewhat lighter on upper breast, gradually
white below, gradually

becomes gray anteriorly

bill blue-black tip.

All proportions appeared same as
nearby Amer. Wigeons

posterior black

no ♀ of this bird - a "lover"

Crown very light yellow. At distance
appeared white, but could see light
yellow when directly compared w/
nearby Amer. Wigeons.

(feeding)

Amur Wigeon; posteriorly

Eurasian Wigeon

(male)

(Anas penelope)

21 January 1990

partial overcast; mid 50's; breezy

8:45 - 9:00 am

Port Fourchon, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

Description by Curtis Marantz

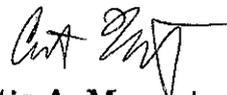
other observer: Cerise L. Cauthron

We went down to Grand Isle primarily in the hope of seeing this bird, which had consistently been seen in the large body of open water along Theriot Road near Port Fourchon. Apparently, the bird had been associating with the large group of ducks, primarily American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), and Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), towards the far (west?) end of the lake; however, when we located the bird, it was only about half way down the lake. Fortunately for us, the bird was associating with one of the closer groups of wigeon, being only about 75 meters away from us. During our observations, the bird slowly moved to about 125 meters offshore; however, our views of it at this distance were still quite good. The sun was at our backs when it was out, making the bird easy to pick out from the hundreds of ducks present. The sun was blocked by clouds for part of our observation time. Once we found the bird, it was in full view until we left to go to Grand Isle, a period of about 15 minutes. During the time of our observations the bird was associating with a group of American Wigeon, initially swimming off to distance themselves from us, but later, foraging in the apparently shallow water by tipping up. We never saw this bird fly nor did we even see it open its wings. The bird never called to my knowledge.

The Eurasian Wigeon appeared identical to nearby male American Wigeon in nearly every respect except plumage coloration, even the pattern was quite similar in the two species. Both birds had a pale bluish-gray bill with a black tip; a contrasting pale forehead set off from a somewhat darker face; evenly colored back, wings, sides, and upper flanks; and an obvious white flash on the lower flanks which separated the clean sides from the jet black undertail coverts. The only differences between this bird and the American Wigeon, although they were striking, were the unmarked deep red face and head contrasting sharply with the creamy-yellow forehead, and the pearly-gray back, wings, sides and flanks, which contrast noticeably with the pinkish breast and, strikingly, with the white rear flank flash. Like the American Wigeon, this bird had a thin white wing stripe, running parallel to the water line, across the wing coverts. The lower belly of this bird, seen when the bird tipped up, was whitish, contrasting with the jet black undertail coverts. The flight feathers were a noticeably darker gray than the back but they appeared to have paler edges. We were a little too far from the bird to see the fine vermiculations on the back, wings, and sides and the fine patterning on the breast. These areas simply appeared to be a clean, pearly-gray and medium pink, respectively.

The combination of fieldmarks noted (deep red head; creamy-yellowish forehead; clean gray back, wings, sides, and flanks; white flank patch; and overall similarity to nearby American Wigeon) serve to identify the bird as a male Eurasian Wigeon. I have previously seen approximately 30 of these birds in California, where I have birded extensively and lived for eight years near a bay in which this species occurred almost annually, with multiple birds present on several occasions (Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County). I have also seen a number of these birds on Attu Island, Alaska. Less than two weeks prior to this sighting, Cerise and I saw another male of this species along the Rio Grande River at the Santa Margarita Ranch in the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas/Mexico.

I was primarily using my 22X wide angle telescope to make the observations. I did not consult any field guides between the time of the observation and the time of writing this account; however, I should note that this is a species that I am very familiar with. This description was written on 3 February 1990 from notes made on an *American Birds* sighting card the day after the observation. Although I did not photograph this bird, I have seen some pictures taken by Gwen Smalley.



Curtis A. Marantz
Museum of Natural Science
119 Foster Hall
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographys, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

- 1. Common and scientific name: *Eurasian Wigeon (Anas Penelope)*
- 2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad. male
- 3. Locality: Louisiana: Fourchons Road Parish: LaFourche

- 4. Date(s) when seen: Feb. 4, 1990
- 5. Times of day when seen: around 8:30 AM
- 6. Reporting observer and address: Norton Velkin, 23 Swallow St., New Orleans, LA 70124
- 7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
- 8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Dan Purrington, Mac Myers
- 9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Gaycraft discovered bird; seen by many observers*
Good light conditions. Light coming from left and behind.
- 10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
10X40 Zeiss & 20 power Spacemaster scope. (first in excellent condition, 2nd in fairly good condition)
- 11. Distance to bird: 100-200 yards
- 12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes
- 13. Habitat (general and specific):
Open water on open marsh.

- 14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
Swimming and surface feeding

- 15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
grayish sides. Reddish head with yellowish ^{stripe} through center of head (looked like a Redhead at first glance until one could see top of head). Bluish bill w/black tip.

16. Voice:

Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Red-head: yellowish stripe through head. No black on chest (but neither do young red-heads).
American Wren: head color, head stripe color, gray sides.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

19. Previous experience with this species:

In England and with one discovered in New Orleans.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; None.

b) after observation: None.

21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter:



24. Date and time of writing this account:

March 31, 1990; 8:15 AM

REPORT TO THE
LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

1. Common and scientific name:
Eurasian Wigeon, Anas penelope
2. Number of individuals seen, sexes, ages, general plumage, etc.
One male, in breeding (definitive alternate?) plumage
3. Locality:
To find the spot at which the bird was seen, go south of Leesville on LA 1 and turn right on LA 3090 toward Port Fourchon. Go a mile or two to the water tower on the left side of the road and turn right onto Theriot Road (paved). There will be a large body of water on your right at this point. Go a few hundred yards to the last area at which the body of water comes to within a few feet of the road. The bird was about 80-100 yards out.
4. Date(s) when seen:
January 14, 1990
5. Times of day when seen:
We left the bird at 10:15 AM.
6. Reporting observer and address:
John P. Sevenair, 325 Stafford Place, New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Gwen and Al Smalley, and two graduate students (Biology) from Tulane.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
I'm told that the bird was found by Gay Craft, who was birding with her father (a nonbirder), on January 9th. It was seen by Jim Holmes (both Sr. and Jr.) and perhaps by others on Jan. 13, and by Cecil Kersting on Jan. 15.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and amount of light):
The weather was partly cloudy; the bird was in sunlight for a substantial portion of the observation. The sun was almost directly behind us as we looked at him. He was in the open; there were no obstructions in our sight line and no structures or vegetation to shade him.
10. Optical equipment:
Bushnell Spacemaster with 20x eyepiece (mostly); a Kowa TSN4 with a 40x eyepiece part of the time.
11. Distance to bird:
About 80-100 yards.
12. Duration of observation:
About half an hour.
13. Habitat (general and specific):
The bird was swimming in open water in a large, shallow lake. This body of water is an impoundment and not tidal. Its water surface was perhaps a foot higher than that of a tidal body of water across the road. The bird was within a few yards of the remnants of some duck blinds, suggesting that the water was quite shallow there.

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
The bird was swimming back and forth (mostly parallel to the road) and feeding. He would often lean his head forward and submerge it while doing this, but his body remained parallel with the water surface.
15. Description (Include what was actually seen, not what should have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc.)

The bird was swimming with a large flock of ducks that consisted almost entirely of American Wigeons. Had I seen only his size, outline, and behavior, I would have been unable to distinguish him from the American Wigeons. Therefore he was a dabbling duck.

His head and neck were dark red in color. There was a pale yellow stripe on his forehead, extending from the base of the bill to the top of his head and not beyond. When the bird leaned forward the end of the yellow stripe could be seen with the red of the head above it. This stripe seemed to be both narrower and shorter than the one illustrated in the National Geographic Society field guide. The bill was pale blue with a black tip. The eye was dark.

The breast was a reddish-gray sort of color, paler than the head and neck, and reminiscent of some blush zinfandel wine I've seen. The bird's sides were pale gray. The bird had a white area just in front of the tail, as did nearby American Wigeons).

The bird's back was also light gray, becoming darker toward the rear (I think the darker color there was on the primaries). A narrow white area was briefly visible at one point between the back and side when the bird rearranged his wings. The tail was black.

16. Voice:

Not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observations):

American Wigeons (many were swimming nearby) have a green stripe going back from the eye and areas of white streaked with black on the head; the red head of this bird was strikingly different. The forehead patch of the American Wigeons was white (not pale yellow) and more extensive. The sides of the American Wigeons were reddish, not gray as in this bird.

Redheads do not have a yellow area on the forehead. The breast is black (darker than the head) in Redheads, not reddish and lighter than the head. The Redhead's bill is mostly gray, not blue. There is no white patch on the side in front of the tail in the Redhead. I have seen Redheads in this area in the past.

Common Goldeneyes (females and first-year males) do not have a yellowish area on the forehead, a reddish breast, or a white spot on the sides in front of the tail. They also have dark bills and light eyes, unlike this bird. Common Goldeneyes (and Redheads) are diving ducks, and their behavior would presumably not be as similar to that of nearby dabbling ducks as this bird's was.

Decoys just sit there and bob up and down. This bird swam purposefully back and forth over a range of perhaps 20 yards. He

usually held his head erect, but often flexed his neck forward to submerge his head in feeding. Once I saw him shake his body to rearrange his feathers.

18. Photographs:

Gwen Smalley took some slides. They're a little blurry, but show the red head, gray back and sides, yellow head mark, and white area in front of the tail.

19. Previous experience with this species:

My experience with this species is limited. I first saw a Eurasian Wigeon in Rhode Island in January 1984. I have not seen it in recent years, nor have I seen it in Louisiana.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) At the time of observation:

The National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America (first edition) was used to acquaint the graduate students with the bird.

b) After observation:

National Geographic Society, Field Guide to the Birds of North America (first edition).

21. This description written from: x Notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.

A copy of the field notes is enclosed.

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

Note: The bird was seen in a lightly-populated area of the state, in a marshy pond with American Wigeons, and not (for instance) in a New Orleans or Baton Rouge park pond with mallards. This suggests that it's a wild bird and not an escape.

23. Signature of reporter:

John P. Severain

24. Date and time of writing this account:

Main draft finished Sunday, January 15, at 11:45 AM. Details of optics added 8:00 PM the same day.

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

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1. Common and scientific name: EURASIAN WIGEON, *Anas penelope*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 (MALE)
3. Locality: Louisiana: FOURCHON ROAD Parish: LAFOURCHE
4. Date(s) when seen: JANUARY 13, 1990
5. Times of day when seen: 8:45 A.M.
6. Reporting observer and address: JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN, 15913 MALVERN HILL, BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
ESTHER BOYKIN
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
JAMES HOLMES AND JAMES HOLMES, JR.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): SUNLIGHT AT BACK, GOOD LIGHT FOR VIEWING
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
ZEISS 10X40 BINOC., BUSHNELL - 20X SCOPE
11. Distance to bird: 30-40 YDS.
12. Duration of observation: 15 MINUTES
13. Habitat (general and specific):
A LARGE POND ON WEST SIDE OF FOURCHON ROAD - BIRD SEEN FROM THERRIOT RD. (SP.?)
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
SWIMMING & FEEDING (TIPPING UP)
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
BIRD WAS SAME SIZE AS A. WIGEON WITH WHICH IT WAS SWIMMING - CREAM-COLORED PATE, RED HEAD AND NECK - GRAY BODY - WHITE UPPER WING PATCH VISIBLE AS BIRD WAS SWIMMING (GRAY FLANKS, WINGS REALLY QUITE NOTICEABLE AS COMPARED TO COLORATION OF A. WIGEON)

16. Voice: NOT HEAD
17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):
A. WIGEON - RED HEAD AND NECK, GRAY BODY RATHER THAN BROWN OR REDDISH BROWN
18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):
NO
19. Previous experience with this species: SEEN SEVERAL TIMES IN MICHIGAN AND ONTARIO - ALSO SEEN IN ICELAND
20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation; NAT. GEOGRAPHIC, PETERSON
b) after observation: NONE
21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:
23. Signature of reporter: Joseph P. Kleiman
24. Date and time of writing this account:

1/16/90

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: Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 adult male in alternate plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Lafourche
Specific Locality: Fourchon Impoundment
4. Date(s) when observed: January 20, 1990
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:50 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: 4515 S. Prieur St., New Orleans, LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Curt Sorrells
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Discovered by Gay Gomez on January 9, 1990.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast; light fair to good.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bushnell Spacemaster 20x or 22x
11. Distance to bird(s): ~250 yards
12. Duration of observation: Not specified in my notes.
13. Habitat: Man-made impoundment; open water (fresh or brackish).

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Feeding, dabbling, swimming with American Wigeon flock.

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): Dabbling duck, maybe slightly larger than adjacent American Wigeon. Head maybe slightly larger and more pointed than Am. Wigeon. Entire head was reddish-chestnut except for light tannish patch from the forehead to middle of the crown. The bald pate stopped abruptly before the peak of the head; no blending into the red. The shoulders (?) showed a faint light chestnut wash. (I'm not sure what this refers to, but that's what my notes say.) The back and upper flanks were gray. There seemed to be a gray ring where the breast and neck meet. There was a small, horizontal white stripe that showed where the wings meet the flanks. The tail and undertail coverts were black with a white patch between the black rear and the gray flanks. The tips of the primaries were black with white stripes (edges?) blending into tail. Belly appeared to be white but hard to see while the bird was swimming and dabbling. The bill was light gray with a black tip. The posture was the same as the American Wigeon.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Adult male Eurasian Wigeon in alternate plumage well seen is unmistakable. There was no hint of hybridization.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None

19. Previous experience with this species: This was my first observation of Eurasian Wigeon. I've seen one since in LA and several in California and Oregon.

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

a. at time of observation: Probably National Geographic

b. after observation: None

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

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes

23. Signature of reporter:

Phillip Wallace Date: March 10, 2011 Time: 9:30a.m.

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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English and Scientific names:	<i>Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope)</i>
Number of individuals:	1 adult male, alternate plumage
Locality: LOUISIANA:	Lafourche
Specific Locality:	Port Fourchon area: large pond/impoundment north of Theriot Road, approximately 0.4 mile from Fourchon Road (La. 3090)
Date(s) when observed:	9 January 1990 NOTE: I submitted details on this sighting to the LBRC in early 1990 but did not have a long form to record them on [I was then in graduate school in Austin, TX and only returning to La. on occasional weekends]. Because of the absence of the official form, I assume, the record was not reviewed. See attached file for copies of those records, acknowledgement of their receipt by LBRC Secretary, and 2 photos. I am grateful to the LBRC for their belated review of my report now.
Time(s) of day when observed:	Approximately 11:15 am until 11:55 am
Reporting observer and address:	Gay Gomez Lake Charles, LA
Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):	(My father, Russell Gomez, also saw the bird but did not identify it; he is not a birder.) None on the day of my initial sighting, but see below.
Other observers who independently identified the bird(s)	OTE: After returning to the New Orleans area on the day of the sighting, I phoned Dan Purrington and Mac Myers to tell the news and describe the bird. Mac Myers traveled to Port Fourchon the following day and found the bird, verifying my sighting and identification. (See AMERICAN BIRDS, vol. 44, no. 2, p. 280.) Later, many observers traveled to the area and also saw the bird.
Light conditions (position of bird in	The late morning light shining on the bird was

relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):	strong, for the sun on this clear, cool, early January day was behind me as I looked north toward the pond. Temperatures were in the mid-60s, so heat waves were minimal.
Optical equipment:	Bushnell 7 to 21 x 40 zoom binoculars, 21 power used, condition of binoculars excellent
Distance to bird(s):	Approximately 200 meters
Duration of observation:	40 minutes
Habitat:	Open water of large pond/impoundment with marshy edges, shallow enough for dabbling ducks to feed
Behavior of bird:	<p>The bird was swimming slowly amid a large flock of American Wigeon. It occasionally tipped to feed (dabbled: tail up, head under the water), just as did the American Wigeon.</p> <p>The bird moved around during the time I observed it (approx. 40 minutes) so that I was able to view it from several angles.</p>
Description:	<p>Additional details of these observations are recorded below in the "Description" section and are taken directly from my field notes. While scanning a large flock of American Wigeon (approximately 200) moving slowly on the water, occasionally feeding, out about 200-230 yards (north of Theriot Road), I spotted a bird which I first thought to be a Redhead. The bird swam slowly and presented a side view; its reddish head and light, grayish sides clearly distinguished it from the American Wigeon around it. As I continued to watch the bird in the excellent light, the view from other angles led me to question my initial thoughts on its identity.</p> <p>Repeated frontal views showed not only a light bill, but also a light forehead and crown identical in extent to those of nearby American Wigeon. At this point I realized that a very careful examination was necessary, so</p>

I moved to the side of the car to steady my binoculars on its roof. After several anxious minutes of searching, I relocated the bird and continued to observe its light forehead and crown, noting a slight difference in their color (very light peach or!

off-white) from the white of the American Wigeon. The bird then began to feed like those wigeon around it: it tipped; it did not dive. When the bird was tipped, I had a good view of its posterior and observed a white band separating the black undertail coverts from the gray sides. After briefly resting my eyes and checking the field guide for additional identifying characteristics, I was fortunate to again relocate the bird. It continued to feed at intervals, between which I was able to discern the bird's light (rather than black) breast. Despite its unlikely occurrence in southeastern Louisiana I am convinced by my observations that the bird in question is an adult male Eurasian Wigeon.

Voice:

Not noted

Similar species:

The bird was not a Redhead, for it had a pale peach forehead and crown identical in extent (though not in exact color) to that of the American Wigeon with which it was swimming and feeding. The white flank patch and light breast of the bird I observed were also not characteristic of Redhead plumage.

The bird also fed in the same manner as the American Wigeon: by dabbling, not diving or completely submerging.

The bird was not an American Wigeon, for its forehead and crown were not the bright white of the American Wigeon, but rather a pale peach or off-white color (so it appeared in the strong light of late morning). Also, a very

clear distinction was the bird's reddish head; the nearby American wigeon drakes had the white/green/gray pattern that was familiar to me, and the female American wigeon were much plainer in appearance.

Photographs or tape recordings obtained?

2 photographs are attached. They are scanned from 2 slides taken by Gwen Smalley on 14 January 1990 and sent to Gay Gomez shortly thereafter, for documentation purposes; I am grateful to Gwen for her thoughtfulness. (View the slides in full-screen/slide show mode, and you'll see the Eurasian Wigeon near the center foreground in each.)

Previous experience with this species:

This was my first sighting of a Eurasian Wigeon.

However, previous trips to the coast with Dan Purrington, Norton Nelkin, David Muth, and Mac Myers prepared me well to make this discovery. I remember them commenting as we viewed flocks of American Wigeon to always look carefully to see if there was a "redhead" among them.

Identification aids:

I used the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America during and after the observation.

I also described the bird later that day to Dan Purrington and Mac Myers, who seemed to concur with my identification of it.

This description is written from:

The description is taken from notes made during and immediately after the observation. I have quoted from the notes in the "Description" section above and have extracted and paraphrased some of the information to conform to the questions and format of this form.

Are you positive of your

Yes, I am positive of my identification.

Identification? If not, explain:

Date and time:

25 March 2010, 4:00 pm