

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: Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
3. Locality: : (parish) _____ Union _____
Specific Locality: ___D'Arbonne Lake, Farmerville, La _____
4. Date(s) when observed:
12-11-16
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
3:35 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Stephen L. Pagans, 128 Honeysuckle Drive, West Monroe, La. 71291
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None
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): Overcast
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition) 10x Zeiss binoculars, 60x scope, Canon Power Shot SX60HS (camera) on tripod. The camera has 60X optical zoom and digital zoom beyond that.
11. Distance to bird(s): About one half mile or further.
12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes or longer
13. Habitat: lake
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting, some in sleep mode while others were swimming around. All moved around at some point in time.

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): There were eleven in the group. They appeared to be slightly larger than Canvasbacks swimming in the same area. They swam in a fairly low profile at times while at other times they were swimming with their heads held high (maybe because of the choppy waves). They also occasionally held their tails in a cocked position, otherwise flat to the water. Their bodies were long looking. Their bills appeared to be fairly small but were difficult to see. They had bright white breasts and throats. The white did not go up the throats very far before turning dark. The heads were also dark. Their backs were dark. Color could not be discerned at their distant position. The choppy waves hid their sides much of the time but quite often white sides could be seen.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Male Hooded Mergansers also have white breasts but they are also smaller than Canvasbacks. Male HOMEs also occasionally flash their white head crests. Male Norther Shovelers also have white breasts but their large bills would have been visible as well as other body features.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Videos were done by me. Shortened versions of them have been uploaded with my eBird report.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen them on at least two other occasions on this same lake.

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

a. at time of observation: Bird books.

b. after observation: Bird books, Google images, Vireo images, and conferred with Dr. Van Remsen.

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

23. Signature of reporter: _Stephen L. Pagans_____Date:12-15-16
___Time:_9:49 pm_

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____Yes____X_____
If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____Yes____X_____

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