

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: [Common Merganser \(\*Mergus merganser\*\)](#)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1 female](#)
3. Parish: [Iberville](#)  
Specific Locality: [LSU St. Gabriel Ag. Res. Center](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [30 Dec. 17](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [ca. 0800](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [Van Remsen, LSUMZ](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Paul McKenzie, Gary Byerly](#)
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): [Steve Cardiff, Donna Dittmann, Paul Conover, Oscar Johnson](#)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Good](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10X50 binos, Nikon point-and-shoot](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [ca. 50 m initially; after relocation, several hundred m](#)
12. Duration of observation: [initially just a few seconds; after relocation, several hundred m](#)

13. Habitat: [artificial water retention ponds](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [Flew in from out of nowhere and landed briefly on small pond; a few seconds later, flushed as I realized it was COME and it realized we were there. It flushed out of sight. In hopes that it might end up in the only other pond on the property, we then worked our way to east side of the pond visible on its west side from Hwy. 30. Fortunately, it was there! We approached cautiously and only close enough to get some diagnostic images; then, we backed away in hopes that others would get to see it. We returned at ca. 16:00 to see if still there --- by that time it had flown, which was not unexpected given that this muddy pond seldom has any ducks.](#)

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*): [An obvious large female-plum. merganser: long, gray-bodied, white below, and brownish head. Immediately distinguished from Red-breasted by crisply defined dark reddish brown head with sharply defined white throat. See photos.](#)

16. Voice: [silent](#)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): [RBME would have had duller, shaggier, less well-defined head pattern including no well-defined throat area](#)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): [photos attached](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [Hundreds of times in Colorado, California, and elsewhere; only once in LA](#)

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): [none](#)

a. at time of observation: [none](#)

b. after observation: [none](#)

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: **17 Jan. 18**

Time:

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**



