

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Great Blue Heron "white form" ("Great White" Heron)  
*Ardea herodias occidentalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1
3. Parish: Jefferson  
Specific Locality: "Exxon Fields" Grand Isle, LA
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 April 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:15 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): eBird dates span 21 April 2016 (Wendy Rihner) to 5 May 2016 (Donna Dittmann). Was initially reported by a non-LA birder on LABird around the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>th</sup> of April, but I can't find that report in my email.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): I was mostly looking at the bird to my E and sun was angled to the W in mid-afternoon, resulting in nice lighting. Sunny.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, good condition.
11. Distance to bird(s): 100-200 feet
12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes
13. Habitat: grassy "salt pan" recently plowed (in the Least Tern nesting area)
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):  
Foraging/loafing (mostly standing still) and flying. A bit shy, so flew from the side of the road to a bit further back off the road.
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*): Large all-white heronoid with all pale-yellow legs and feet, and large yellow bill.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Most obviously like Great Egret, but with pale yellow legs. Also notably larger with relatively longer heavy bill. Several Great Egrets were in the area, but not close enough for a side-by-side comparison. Identification was not only based on leg color, but also proportions (bill-head ratio) and general size.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, but with a cell phone, so they are pretty terrible.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen many years ago in the Everglades. Obviously lots of experience with Great Egrets on a daily basis for over a decade.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 26 August 2016

Time: 9:00 am

24. 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

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

