

# 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: **Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
**1 adult in full white plumage**
3. Parish: **Terrebonne**  
Specific Locality: **Whiskey Island (approximate lat/long: N29.04770 W90.82324)**
4. Date(s) when observed:  
**November 16, 2016**
5. Time(s) of day when observed:  
**~9:30 AM**
6. Reporting observer and address:  
**Jessica Schulz, 655 Marie Antoinette St., Apt. 202, Lafayette, LA 70506**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):  
**NA**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
**NA**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
**Bird was in bright, direct sunlight; sun was getting high but positioned somewhat behind me to my upper left while I was looking at bird.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
**Swarovski STS 80 spotting scope with 20-60x eyepiece on tripod; good condition**
11. Distance to bird(s):  
**~75 meters**
12. Duration of observation:  
**Approx. 4 minutes**
13. Habitat:  
**Edge of mangrove/marsh/sandy beach, about 15 meters from marsh and tidal cut**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

**When I first saw the bird, it was standing very still with tall posture at the junction of backshore beach and marsh/mangrove habitat, as though resting, generally relaxed though clearly watching me. I watched the bird for several minutes through my spotting scope and it moved only slightly. When I picked up my scope to move closer, the bird flushed and flew toward the bay side of the island, dropping out of sight.**

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*):

**Head, neck, and shoulders were visible above mangrove plants. Bird and I were on the same plane, and it was obvious the bird was quite tall relative to myself. Clearly much larger than the Great Egrets I had just observed in nearby mangrove, though they were not close enough to this bird for direct comparison. Bill was very distinctive: quite heavy, with dark top mandible and yellow on the lower mandible. Lores slate gray.**

16. Voice:

**Did not vocalize**

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

**Great Egret: GREG has slimmer, all-yellow bill and lores; this bird had much heavier, bicolored (top dark, light on bottom) bill and dark gray lores. Considerably larger and somewhat bulkier than GREG.**

**Reddish Egret, white morph: REEG has slimmer bill which can appear all-black or bicolored anterior/posterior. This bird had much heavier bill that was bicolored top to bottom. Considerably larger and somewhat bulkier than REEG.**

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

**Attached to email: two digiscope photos (iPhone SE + Swarovski STS) of bird's head, neck, and shoulders, plus one photo of bird flying away taken with Canon Rebel T2i with 300mm lens. All taken by J. Schulz.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

**Have observed 2-3 other times in the past, most recently in Cedar Key, FL in April 2016 with other experienced birders for additional confirmation.**

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

a. at time of observation:

**NA**

b. after observation:

**Other birders (Rob Dobbs reviewed my photos)**

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
X	memory		
X	study of images		

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

**I am positive. I have a great deal of experience identifying the potential alternatives (GREG, adult & immature white morph REEG) by the same characteristics used to distinguish this bird from them, and have had the opportunity to observe other white morph GBHEs in the past. I was not at all expecting to see it at this site (which I have visited regularly for 3+ years without seeing a white-morph GBHE), but I am quite sure this is what I saw.**

23. Date: Nov. 18, 2016

Time: 2:00 PM

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





