

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: Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): One immature, sex unknown
3. Locality: Parish: Acadia
Specific Locality: Crowley Wastewater Treatment Plant
4. Date(s) when observed: 06 November 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1000 CST
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): This bird was discovered three days prior by YRARF field trip participants
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): The bird was backlit when I found it, but I was able to maneuver and get the sun to my back and the bird in generally soft, but bright, light beneath thin clouds coming and going in front of the sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition), Pentax PF-80EDa spotting scope (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 50 m

12. Duration of observation: 5 min

13. Habitat: open water of sewage pond

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Initially alone w/ no other ducks nearby, diving regularly, on one of smaller SE ponds; later flew to big pond.

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): Small-med sized duck, w/ notably plump appearance in flight. Back and upper wing generally uniformly brownish, on water and in flight. White flanks conspicuous on water and in flight. Rel. small, dark-gray bill. Unique head pattern w/ dark brownish crown/nape and paler brownish supraloral line, lower cheek and neck contrasting w/ broad, whitish mask that tapered to a point behind eye. Immature based on Madge and Burn (1988).

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): A distinctive duck if seen well and at reasonably close range--as here--where unique light-dark pattern of head may be distinguished easily from other diving ducks that may have indistinct or sex/age-variable pale areas on head (e.g., Ruddy Duck, scoters, etc.). Harlequin Duck has more uniformly dark head with different light-dark pattern.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Yes, by Robert C. Dobbs

19. Previous experience with this species: A fair bit, western U.S. and Great Lakes

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: BNA; Madge and Burn 1988 Waterfowl: an identification guide...

21. This description is written from: X notes made during the observation (notes attached?); X notes made after the observation (date: 06 Nov 2017); memory.

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

23. Date: 25 Nov 2017 Time: 0730 CST

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





