

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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 information involving an observation is accounted for). **Attach additional pages as necessary.** Please print or type. Attach photocopy of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include complete series of 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. (If you use this form as a computer template; please submit on archival quality = 100% cotton paper.)

1. English and Scientific names: Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage: One
3. Locality: offshore from Rutherford Beach. Louisiana: Cameron Par., 4 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River
4. Date(s) when observed: 27 April 2002
5. Time(s) of day when observed: first observed at 4:15 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): _____
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): _____
9. Light conditions: very good--bright and sunny with excellent contrast to see color
10. Optical equipment: both Leica 10 X 42 binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s): estimated as close to shore as 300 yds.
- 12.) Duration of observation: 3-4 minutes
- 13.) Habitat: Gulf of Mexico, chocolate brown with white caps, whisked to a froth by strong SE winds
- 14.) Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation: The bird was observed as it arced up over the waves by DLD who immediately got SWC on the bird. We then both watched the bird as it moved west to east with one pass back to the west before moving farther away and out east of sight.
- 15.) Description: Immediately recognizable as a large shearwater by its shape and flight mannerisms. It had long slender wings that were held stiffly as it arced up and coasted down over the waves. Its wing beats were stiff, strokes without much "bend." It was mostly cruising into the wind. It was grayish-brown above and white below, definitely not "black and white" like an Aududon's or Manx. The head throat contrast was slight, *not capped* like a Greater, or as dark backed as that species. Underwings were clean white and contrasted with dark flight feathers.
- 16.) Voice: not heard

17.) Similar species and how they were eliminated: As noted above, no other species similar by size or coloration. Underwings of (unrecorded away from Pacific) Pink-footed Shearwater not as clean white.

18.) Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None

19.) Previous experience with this species: Several seen off North Carolina and Louisiana to feel confident with the ID of this and similar species.

21.) Identification aids:

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: None.

22.) This description is written from: X notes made during the observation; _____ notes made (immediately) after the observation (date: _____); or _____ memory. Please attach copy of field notes.

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

24.) Signature of reporter: Donald Dethman 29 April 2002

Signature of reporter: Thomas W. Condy 29 April 2002
(date) (time)