

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: Two
3. Locality: Gulf of Mexico, 15 mi. SE South Pass at 28 ° 53' 22.8" N, 88 ° 54' 25.2" W
4. Date(s) when observed: 29 May 2002
5. Time(s) of day when observed: spotted from boat at 4:17 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mac Myers, Steve Cardiff, possibly David Muth. I don't think Curt Sorrells or Dan Purrington (also present) really got onto the bird in time.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): _____
9. Light conditions: pretty good--perhaps a little bit of glare as the bird was off the right hand side of the boat as we were heading in to the NW.
10. Optical equipment: Leica 10 X 42 binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s): estimated 200 ft. at first detection then moving away from boat.
- 12.) Duration of observation: 1-2 minutes
- 13.) Habitat: Gulf of Mexico, green water
- 14.) Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation: I first spotted the birds as they broke the horizon as they were traveling in the opposite direction of the boat. They were both flapping and gliding up and down barely breaking the horizon above the waves. I called out Cory's as soon as I spotted them so that the others on the boat could also see them. I then relocated them and saw them for a few more moments as the other passengers yelled to stop the boat. The boat stopped and we could see the shearwaters disappear out of sight behind the boat.
- 15.) Description: Immediately recognizable as a large shearwater by shape and flight

style. Both birds had long slender wings that were held stiffly and they arced up and down over the water. Wing beats were stiff strokes. Both birds were grayish-brown above and white below. The color was fairly distinct and definitely *not* "black and white" like an Aududon's--one was seen earlier in the day. There was no dark cap like a Greater. The head, sides of the head, and back were concolor. Flight feathers looked somewhat darker, but the duration of the observation was short, and plumage details are minimal. Underwings were clean white and contrasted with dark flight feathers.

16.) Voice: not heard

17.) Similar species and how they were eliminated: No other species really similar.

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: Donnal Dittman 30 May 2002

Signature of reporter: _____ (date) (time)