

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:

Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
one individual, molting heavily

3. Locality: Parish: Gulf of Mexico

Specific Locality: 100 km SSE of Venice, LA, Northern Gulf of Mexico

GPS Coordinates:

28°25.387'
-089°00.553'

4. Date(s) when observed:

2 July 2012

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

8:05 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jennifer O. Coulson, 64340 Fogg Lane, Pearl River, LA 70452

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Brett Falterman (identified as a shearwater)

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

None.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

The morning sun was shining on the bird, as is evident in the photographs.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Canon EOS20D with a 2.8; 77 mm; 70-200 mm zoom lens on full zoom (200 mm).
[digital camera]

11. Distance to bird(s):

The bird was approximately 80 feet away; then it flew out of sight.

12. Duration of observation:

approximately 1 minute

13. Habitat:

pelagic: blue water with sparsely scattered sargassum weed

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

flying just above the water

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):

I was concentrating on taking photographs and did not have time to view the bird with binoculars. While photographing the bird, I had the impression that it was one of the smaller shearwaters, that its dark parts looked blackish not brownish, and that its bill looked blackish. Ventral parts were mostly white. From this I concluded that it was probably an Audubon's Shearwater. I did note that it was heavily into the molt. From the photographs, I also noted the blackish undertail coverts and the somewhat stubby (less pointed) tail.

16. Voice:

bird was not vocalizing

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

The black undertail coverts, blackish dorsum,

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

I photographed the bird; photos submitted to the LSUMNS on a cd.

19. Previous experience with this species:

None.

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

a. at time of observation:

none

b. after observation:

Sibley guide and photographs of the bird

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation

(_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____);

memory. The only thing I noted were the coordinates.

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

I am not positive because I have no prior experience with the species, and I only viewed it through my camera lens.

23. Date: ___ July 5, 2012 _____ Time: ___ 8:21 p.m. _____

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 _____

[Return to LBRC Page](#)