

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: *Cory's Shearwater* (*Puffinus diomedea diomedea*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1, adult
3. Parish: *Plaquemines*
Specific Locality: 28.6424, -89.2537; 22.0 mi SE of mouth of Southwest Pass, MS River.
4. Date(s) when observed: 22 September 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 13:30 am
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): 21 other birders present, as listed: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48697088>. I believe most people were able to see this bird.
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): Sunny. Mid-day light, various angles.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): New Nikon D7200, with Nikon 80-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens in used condition

11. Distance to bird(s): About 100 feet or so resting on water, then flying away, very roughly guessing.

12. Duration of observation: About two minutes

13. Habitat: blue water, unsure of depth – Google Earth suggests 680 feet.

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

The bird was spooked while resting on the water as we slowed down. I only saw the bird in flight, and was able to snap a few photos before it got far away.

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*):

Pale brown upper parts and all white underparts. Wings were mostly white below, with leading and trailing edge and wing tips dark brown. Bill straw-yellow with dark tip. From my photos, it appeared the bird was molting to about p6.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Clearly in the “Cory’s complex” – combination of upperpart color and underpart pattern eliminates other shearwaters and petrels. Cape Verde and Cory’s “borealis” eliminated by extensive white extending into the underside of the primaries. Cape Verde also eliminated by paler head and paler (and more yellowish) bill.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, see eBird report: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48714342> (ML116026721).

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen on most of the 6-8 Louisiana pelagics I’ve been on, including many last fall, but experience is sporadic.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: Checked Sibley later that day, and subsequently have looked at Nat Geo 7th ED and Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of N.A. (Howell 2012).

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes, to “Cory’s complex”, and unless significant evidence emerges that underwing pattern is not reliable, I would feel comfortable assigning this bird to Scopoli’s.

23. Date: 30 September 2018 (I had initially confused two different birds into one report; revised into two reports 25 March 2019, 9:45pm)

Time: 3:40 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