

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: Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 age and sex unknown
3. Parish: Plaquemines
Specific Locality: Pelagic trip out of Venice, 28°27'07.8"N 89°04'50.5"W
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 July 2021
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca. 8:37-8:40 a.m. (eBird list for this leg says leg begins at 8:48, but my time stamps are earlier than that.)

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Participants on the pelagic trip on this date.

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

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Full sun on an open sea above blue water, bird seen at various angles to the sun, overhead, and on the water.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon D3500 camera with 200 mm lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): Probably about 30 yards minimum

12. Duration of observation: perhaps 3 minutes

13. Habitat: Open ocean, blue water

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird flushed up before us, and we chased it. It lit several times and we approached it and flushed it until it left us altogether.

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*):

A smallish, dark-and-white counter-shaded shearwater. In general, this was a shearwater of the "Manx type," smaller and more compact than Cory's or Great Shearwater.

Dark above, with dividing line between dark dorsal and pale ventral area running at about the level of the eye back on face, then slightly ventral-bulging dark area on breast sides near fore edge of wings. Underparts largely white. Underwings white with broad dusky trailing edge on secondaries and largely dusky underside of primaries, thinner dark leading edge with small inset dark area around elbow (not wrist) area. Undertail area white near vent, dark on undertail coverts.

Wings in molt, with a few inner primaries shorter in length than outers.

Bill narrow and perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ length of rest of head, appeared dark at distance at which bird was photographed (per my photos).

16. Voice: Not noted.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): In terms of expected or even hoped-for species in the Gulf, main contender is Manx, which differs in having white undertail coverts.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Several took photos. My useful shots are attached. Some are blurry but in total they provide an accurate accounting of the bird.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen with some frequency on pelagic trips over the years.

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

a. at time of observation: At time of observation I called the bird as an “Audubon’s type,” preferring to wait until study of photos to make a call on the ID. With photos relied on past experience to ID.

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	No, verbal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

Yes. Photos show dark undertail coverts consistently.

23. Date: 29 July 2021





















