

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**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **18 individuals the high count.**

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28°11'23.9"N 88°32'55.2"W**

4. Date(s) when observed: **9 September**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 12:17-1:26 a.m.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **all other members of the pelagic crew (Hathaway, Lima, Muth, Myers, Remsen)**

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): **We approached this flock with the light in our favor.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Vortex 12x, Nikon D3500 w/ 200 mm lens.**

11. Distance to bird(s): **perhaps 30 yards before they flushed**

12. Duration of observation: **We observed this flock for about 5 minutes; the number of birds in the area kept us from staying longer.**

13. Habitat: **“Depth 6000’. Featureless blue. Seas still at most 1’. Edge of loop current. Scattered clouds, low 90s, light n winds. Reached 69 miles out after circling Ocean Blackhornet and BP Thunderhorse, then began heading north to South Pass,” per Muth on eBird list**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Birds on water in a flock with Cory’s Shearwaters. They flushed when our approach got too near.**

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*):

Small “black and white” shearwaters in a group on the water with Cory’s. As they bobbed, I scanned their rear underparts and noted black on their distal undertail areas. I also scanned their face patterns. When they flushed, I took photos and then scanned them in flight. All had the marks of AUSH.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Manx by dark undertail coverts, face pattern. Barolo’s by underwing pattern on those seen at the proper angle.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **By me, included.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Much, including many seen previously that day.**

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

23. Date: **15 Sept 2023**

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**



