

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby (*Sula Leucogaster*)

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

1 Adult male

3. Parish: Terrebonne County, La.

Specific Locality: At sea on ship Carnival Breeze at 26,00,34 N -90,35,39 W  
When I input that location into eBird, it listed this location as part of Terrebonne County, La.

4. Date(s) when observed:

10 June 2017

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

2:32 pm – 3:03 pm (based on the time stamp of pictures taken)

6. Reporting observer and address:

Ruben Ayala – 3439 Eva Jane, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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): My balcony was on the starboard side of the ship, which was heading northwest. Generally, the sun was at my back. Because I was able to view the bird at various distances as it flew, the light angle changed somewhat.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Canon 7D with a 18-200 mm Canon lens. Photos shot at 200mm.

11. Distance to bird(s): Bird occasionally came as close as 20 yards but most times was probably 50-100 yards away.

12. Duration of observation: ca. 30 minutes. Bird was lost to view several times as it flew once around the bow, returned after a number of minutes and once lost around aft of boat.

13. Habitat: Over the open Gulf of Mexico.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Was in my cabin when I did a quick scan to check for any birds out the window. I noted a bird flying a little above eye level (I was on Deck 7). I went onto the balcony with my camera and over the course of 30 minutes, I saw the bird flying at various elevations, from different angles. At times, it flew down to just above water level, even diving into the water 2 or 3 times to catch Flying Fish, I presume. I do have several frames with prey in its mouth. Some of the times it flew at higher elevations or farther distances, but I suspect the ship was stirring some prey to move, which got the interest of the Brown Booby.

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*):

No other species seen while the Brown Booby was near the ship. I took a number of photos that show various field marks and proportions from different angles. See photos for details.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Based on the brown coloration on the head, throat and back, white belly and the bright yellow feet, I felt it was the only Booby that could be selected. The Masked Booby has less of the brown and more extensive white coloration on the underside. The feet coloration is much brighter in the Brown Booby and pictures reflect that. The coloration and field marks on the Blue-footed and Red-footed are different and their range would eliminate those two as well. Coloration and markings on Northern Gannet are very different as well.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several on a Texas Pelagic a few years ago. No other experience other than field guides.

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

a. at time of observation: I was focused on getting photos.

b. after observation: Have a number of “field guide” apps on my phone that I referred to after the sighting/photographs, but felt comfortable with my ID while viewing the bird.

21. This description is written from:

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

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

I feel very comfortable with my ID. I felt there were enough pictures taken to provide enough detail to support the ID by anyone viewing them.

23. Date: 15 June, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm CST

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\_\_\_\_\_



















































