

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
3 adults, 1 subadult
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality: Junction of Mississippi River and Southwest Pass
4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Early morning
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): many; pelagic trip
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): Good sunlight
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s and Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens
11. Distance to bird(s): The birds were flying up SW Pass into the river, several hundred yards away.
12. Duration of observation: Total time about 20 seconds
13. Habitat: Mississippi River near its union with the sea, where a large shipping channel, SW Pass, splits from the river. Freshwater.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The three birds were flying together upriver. Erik Johnson noticed them and called them out. I got on them as they were flying away from us at an angle.

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*):

4 somewhat large and pointy-ended birds with pointed wings, in direct and strong flight.

Obvious boobies, with neck and tail extending well fore and aft of wings. Wings pointed and angled in flight. From the distance, I could see a strong brown breast. white belly demarcation on three of the birds, and overall brownish on the 4th. From their shape I could ID them as boobies, and the overall pattern was telltale for Brown Booby.

Incidentally, 2 adults and 1 subadult were reported in late July from SW Pass, and boobies were reported from the general area on 9/23/17.

16. Voice: too far to hear anything.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No other booby-shaped bird in this area, and no other boobies with such a striking pattern. Cormorants, pelicans, and other large birds of the area with different shape and pattern.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No, birds were at a difficult angle to photograph relative to how I was seated. Using binos as I twisted my body was hard enough.

19. Previous experience with this species: Not much, but with a large number of birds in Ponchartrain.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes.

23. Date: 9/25/2017

