

# 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 Noddy, *Anous stolidus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 adult
3. Parish: Plaquemines

Specific Locality: 28°15'49.5"N 88°33'18.8"W

4. Date(s) when observed: 9 September 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca. 1 p.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Conover
City: Lafayette
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): all of the members of the pelagic trip saw it.

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):  
Sunny, bird in good light.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
Vortex 12x binos, Nikon D3500 with 200 mm lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): Maybe 40 yards minimum

12. Duration of observation: ca. 6 min per timestamps

13. Habitat: Blue water, 28.15.495, 88 33 188., depth ca. 6000 ft

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

brownish bird flying away from the boat low over the water, too far to ID, and felt it was a “good” bird. Luckily we saw it land among a flock of birds in the distance. We directed the boat that way, but the captain had already been steered to another flock in the opposite direction. After we had analyzed that flock, we reversed course and started to search for our flock. We came across it, and I started taking pictures to document the Sooty Terns resting on the water. As birds began to take flight, I started scanning and noticed a “white-headed” bird among the flock. Just as I noticed it, it took flight and I called David’s attention to it. David likewise yelled to the back of the boat and everyone got on it. The bird flew toward a nearby boat, then looped back and approached us. It made a slow pass and dropped to the water where a fish was thrashing. The bird threw itself back and forth in the splashing water actively trying to feed. It then took flight again, made another pass and drifted back over the back of the boat. We lost it after that.

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 dark, brownish tern about the size of a Sooty Tern but seemingly bulkier, with a whitish cap.

Bird was chocolate brown above with darker flight feathers and tail. There appeared to be fresher inner primaries. Tail was long and broad and was spread several times, showing what appeared to be graduated rects with outer rects shorter.

Cap whitish, brightest on forecrown and in gentle along brow ridge and gradually blending into brownish gray on hindneck. Crown contrasted strongly with dark loreal line running under shallow S-shaped curve of brow ridge. Thin white eye crescent below eye. Eye dark. Legs Dark.

Bill dark, fairly stout at base and narrowing toward tip, but with distinct gonydeal angle at about the halfway point. Culmen straight for basal 2/3 then curving downward to tip.

16. Voice: I don’t remember if the bird called. There were several Sooties vocalizing at the time, so I’m not sure what sounds were in the air.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Black Noddy eliminated by thickness of bill and angle of gonys.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Many by me and others.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen once, in large numbers at Dry Tortugas, but shot a lot of video then that I refer to often.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
None; I have studied the differences between Brown and Black noddies in all of the major seabird guides and standard field guides fairly well many times.

21. This description is written from:

x	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	No, mental notes
	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
x	memory		

study of images

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

23. Date: 14 September

Time: night

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











