

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Cory's Shearwater, broad sense
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 individual seen in flight only
3. Parish: Plaquemines
Specific Locality: ca. 36-37 mi SE of South Pass
4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Encountered from 1:01-1:02 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. 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): Sunny, light excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x binos, Nikon D3300 camera with 200mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): probably about 50 yards, hard to say over water.
12. Duration of observation: Brief chase of bird lasted about a minute.
13. Habitat: blue water
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): In fairly direct flight away from boat, with a few turns in path.
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*):

Long-winged pale brown and whitish shearwater appreciably larger and with stronger flight than Audubon's Shearwaters seen throughout the day. Circumstances of sighting prevented good observation; I stuck to camera use in hopes of obtaining good details later.

The obvious marks seen even through the camera viewfinder were washed out medium-pale brown upperparts, whitish underparts, and a pale bill tipped darker. In photos, bill appears yellowish or horn colored. Upperparts generally unbroken brown with no strong contrast between body areas aside from patches with differences in color due to molt, no

collar or cap, and only a thin whitish U-shaped band at trailing edge of uppertail coverts separating the coverts from a darker brown tail.

Inner primaries fresher and grayer, with molt having extended outward to about p5. Outer primaries worn and brown. My photos of the underwing pattern are not definitive in determining extent of dark on primaries but suggest whitish bases to the outer primaries as in Scopoli's.







16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Pale bill with dark tip, and overall pattern narrow ID down to “Cory’s” shearwater. My photos are insufficient for differentiating between the Cory’s-type shearwaters, but suggest Scopoli’s.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, probably by many. Mine attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Occasional over the years.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: After writing the description, I consulted the Princeton seabirds book to study similar species.

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 type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 20 September 2017

Time: 1:02 p.m.