

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: Cory's Shearwater *Puffinus diomedea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 2
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality: Carnival Cruise Glory 8.17.19 Leg 23 of 25 (27.762, -88.924)

Based on the starting coordinates of this list (at 5:12pm) and that the ship covered 7.93 miles over the 20 minutes of this list, the birds would have been approximately 1.6 miles northwest of the start coordinates or approximately 83 miles southeast of Southwest Pass.

4. Date(s) when observed: August 17, 2019
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 5:16pm
6. Reporting observer and address: James F. Holmes (Jim), 4109 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): cloudy
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Kowa TSN-883 (Angled), very good condition

11. Distance to bird(s): initially found quite distant but generally flying towards the ship and came as close as 300 meters

12. Duration of observation: 2 minutes

13. Habitat: Open seas,
seas 3 feet, no Whitecaps, Beaufort 3
green water, water depth 2070 meters

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
large shearwater with slow deep wingbeats, flying just above water, no significant arcing. Birds slowly came closer to ship then banked and headed away from the ship.

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*):

Large Shearwater with Gray brown head, nape, and back, dorsal aspect of wings brown, chest and belly white (no dark patch to underside of belly), underside of wings white with dark edge of secondaries, primaries dark. (unable to discern subspecies based on the primaries as the birds were not seen well enough)

Tail dark, unable to see leg color

Light yellow bill (unable to discern dark tip)

16. Voice: none

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Great Shearwater somewhat similarly plumaged but tends to have a more rapid flight. Great Shearwater also has dark cap that contrasts with white nape, dark bill and dark patch on belly (none of this present in these birds). Underside of wings have dark markings leading into axillaries (appeared white on these two birds).

Cape Verde Shearwater has not been recorded in the Gulf of Mexico but has occurred off the North Carolina coast. I have limited experience with this species but is smaller than Cory's Shearwater and has a dull bill (these two birds clearly had a yellow bill).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): none

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen this species on multiple occasions in more expected locations (Florida, North Carolina, Europe) and most recently in April 2016 (Atlantic Odyssey) and July 2016 (Italy/France). This was the 2nd observation of this species for me in Louisiana (initial September 13, 1997).

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	See eBird list for dictated notes at time of observation
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Memory	
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

See eBird lists: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S59072703>

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

23. Date: December 14, 2019

Time: 12:59pm

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 _____