

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**

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
Highest single count was 13 individuals.

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **28'14.622, 88'57.225**

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

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 9:10-10:00 a.m.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **all other members of the pelagic crew (Hathaway, Lima, Muth, Myers, Remsen)**

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): **Sun at our backs for much of sighting time.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Vortex 12x, Nikon D3500 w/ 200 mm lens.**

11. Distance to bird(s): **Often with several floating or flying within 30-40 yards.**

12. Duration of observation: **We were among these birds for over half an hour, although my attention was split among all species present.**

13. Habitat: **"Deep blue water, mostly featureless. 5000' deep, water temp about 93 degrees, approx. 6" to 1' seas" per Muth on eBird list**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Birds resting in small flocks or singles on water, sometimes getting off the water to chase a fish or just to resetttle nearby.**

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*):

Somewhat large shearwaters, scaly brown-gray above, white below, with pale, dark-tipped bills—almost a paler copy of a Great Shearwater. Hooded appearance at times due to extensive gray of sides of neck. Upperwings almost three-toned as scaly gray of mantle extended onto lesser coverts, other coverts were darker gray, and flight feathers were darker—although this pattern made disrupted on many birds by active molt. Rump pale, with paler band just short of darker tail.

Undertail and underwings white. Extent of white into primaries hard to discern, but at least some white at base on many birds.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Depending on how this species is constituted, main point of emphasis is on separation within the group. I wouldn't feel comfortable going below "Cory's" without specimens.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **By many, mine attached here.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **I've seen many over the years, and this is a species that's pretty distinctive.**

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

23. Date: **16 Sept 2023**

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**











