

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):

Eight max count

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28.2437639 -88.9519674, but birds were encountered at end of leg, which according to captain was about 14 miles from previous shearwater flock.**

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

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 10:40-11:10 a.m.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

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|------------------------------------------------|
| 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): **As we circled and angled for better views, we often had sun at our backs and on birds.**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **Various, but often within 50 yards**

12. Duration of observation: **about 30 minutes of observation, and while COSH was not main focus, it was the species to filter out—they were very conspicuous.**

13. Habitat: **“Moving east southeast in water more than 5000' deep, water temp about 93 degrees, approx. 6" to 1' seas. Air temp about 90. Wind northerly 5-10, skies w scattered clouds. Deep blue water, mostly featureless.” 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 on water or flying low and arcing around when flushed to land elsewhere near boat.**

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*):

Brownish-gray and white shearwaters with pale, dark-tipped bills. Most birds appeared to be mottled due to molt; the overall color pattern and scaled upperparts made me think of Greater White-fronted Goose whenever I'd come across one sitting on the water. All birds studied carefully to eliminate other species.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **The size, bill color, and overall color and pattern were used to ID vs the only other similar-sized shearwater, Great, present.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **None by me during this burst of birds. Birds were somewhat spread out over a large area and I was actively scanning for different species rather than photographing. I believe Muth got photos at this time.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Good, and by this time that day, I had experienced a concentrated exposure to them.**

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

23. Date: **18 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**