

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):
Estimated 40 individuals.

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28°13'23.5"N 88°45'53.5"W, presumably ending at 28°11'23.9"N 88°32'55.2"W based on beginning point of next eBird list.**

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

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 11:17 a.m. -12:17 p.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): **Good sun in our favor.**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **within 20 yards at times**

12. Duration of observation: There were Cory's everywhere at this stop and many were moving, so they caught my eye a lot and I saw them

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 on water, flushed upon approach.**

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*):

Counter-shaded gray-above and white-below shearwaters with dark-tipped yellowish tubenose bills. Border between dorsal gray and ventral white indistinct. Size similar to nearby Great Shearwaters. Gray dorsal feathers edged paler gave birds scaled appearance. Dorsal appearance somewhat mottled as open wings showed a mix of incoming gray and worn darker feathers. Underwing pattern not often visible, and given variability in fieldmarks between proposed species within “Cory’s,” no safe guess on which type(s) were present.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Pale bill with dark tip and lack of capped appearance eliminate Great. No expected similar smaller shearwaters.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **By me, below.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Numerous scattered sightings over the years plus a relatively large number earlier that day.**

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

23. Date: **19 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**





