

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): **20 individuals the high count.**

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28°11'23.9"N 88°32'55.2"W**

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

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 12:17-1:26 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): **Good light**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **30 yds +**

12. Duration of observation: **We encountered many of these in this time frame, but we also encountered a Noddy, which seized our attention.**

13. Habitat: **“Depth 6000'. Featureless blue. Seas still at most 1'. Edge of loop current. Scattered clouds, low 90s, light n winds. Reached 69 miles out after circling Ocean Blackhormet and BP Thunderhorse, then began heading north to South Pass,” 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): **A few on water in a flock with Audubon’s Shearwaters. They flushed when our approach got too near. We also encountered pure flocks of Cory’s on the water and scattered individuals moving around the area.**

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*):

Gray above and white below with scaled mantle due to pale fringes on gray feathers. Border of gray dorsal and white underparts vague. Many birds in active wing molt with fresher gray inner primaries and outer secondaries. Bill pale yellowish with darker nails. For what’s it worth, white of underwing extended into outer primaries to some extent, in some cases seemingly pretty far.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Pale bill with dark tip and overall color and pattern eliminate other Gulf species, and the number of similar birds present argue against a rare oddball.**

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

19. Previous experience with this species: **By the end of the 9th, I had more experience in one day than in my life before.**

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**













