

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis/diomedea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:
ca. 22 mi. SE of South Pass (Unsure if anyone took exact coordinates when found)
5. Date(s) when observed: 17 August 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 2PM
7. Reporting observer: David Vander Pluym
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Many on the boat saw it, though unsure who found it
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): bright sun
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x20 swarovski
12. Distance to bird(s): 200+meters
13. Duration of observation: maybe a second
14. Habitat: open ocean though we were in green water at the time.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): flying away from the boat, though it apparently flew by close, unfortunately I was in the cabin at the time.

16. 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):

Was in the cabin when it was called out, by the time I got out and on the bird it was in front of the boat distant and flying away. Large shearwater, long wings and with languid flight. Largely uniform gray-brown back, lacked the scalloped pattern of Great Shearwater and had no contrast with rump (lacked white), tail, and back. Horrid photos but can maybe make out pale bill and underwing pattern which gets you to Cory's but not species. See also <https://ebird.org/checklist/S191996182> and other notes on the shared checklist

17. Voice: none

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

Photos are not detailed enough to be confident in species (hence the slash) and no other photos have yet to appear. Large size, flight style, color of the back, and lack of white on the rump rule out other likely large shearwaters (Great).

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
see attached horrid photos.

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen 20+ in 2012. I have also seen hundreds of Great Shearwaters in the Gulf of Maine, sub Antarctic waters, and one off California.

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

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

21 Aug 2024

25. 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

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes





