

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Great Shearwater, Ardenna gravis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): Three individuals
3. Locality: Parish: Plaquemines (Gulf of Mexico)
Specific Locality: ca. 22 mi SE of South Pass of Mississippi River
4. Date(s) when observed: 10 September 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1135 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Terry Davis, Oscar Johnson, Marybeth Lima, Andre Moncrieff, David Muth, Mac Myers, Van Remsen, and others
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): Overcast sky, which created soft lighting without glare.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 70-300 mm 1:4.5-5.6 G camera lens (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): As close as 50 m
12. Duration of observation: 4 min, at minimum, based on photo time stamps
13. Habitat: pelagic, "blue" water
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and

stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I don't recall the details of how we located the birds, but the bulk of the observation included the three birds on the water at close range, just off the starboard bow (50 m or so), as well as flying around farther out.

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): Large shearwaters with long, narrow/pointed wings; sharply contrasting and well-delineated border between dark brown cap and white throat/neck; dark brown mantle and upper wings, with pale edging on dark brown upper wing coverts. Relatively thin, all-black bills. Dark feathers in wing linings/underwing coverts, dark undersides of primaries, and dark trailing edge of inner primaries and secondaries contrasted with otherwise-white underwing in flight. Partial gray collar on otherwise white neck readily apparent in flight.

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): From Cory's Shearwater by strong contrast/delineation between dark brown cap and white throat/neck, gray collar, all-black bill, and dark feathers in underwing lining.

From Audubon's/Manx shearwaters by larger size, more narrow/pointy wings, slightly more brownish (not jet black) upperparts plumage color with pale feather edging, and gray collar.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos, by Robert C. Dobbs

19. Previous experience with this species: None before this day.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: Nat Geo Guide to Birds of N Am

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?); X notes made after the observation (date: October 2016); _____memory; X photos taken during the observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes, positive; candidates for confusion satisfactorily eliminated.

23. Date: 26 November 2016 Time: 1310 CST

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

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

Individual 1 of 3 (2 photos)



Individual 2 of 3 (2 photos)



Individual 3 of 3 (2 photos)

