

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): One individual
3. Locality: Parish: Plaquemines (Gulf of Mexico)
Specific Locality: ca. 17 mi SE of South Pass of Mississippi River
4. Date(s) when observed: 10 September 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 0808 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): Bright AM sunlight. I did not note the position of the boat or the bird relative to the sun, but photos suggest that the bird was blackish above, indicating that I may have been looking/photographing toward the sun or in otherwise harsh light.
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): 50-100 m
12. Duration of observation: 30 sec
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): Several of us spotted the bird at about the same time as it was off the port bow, crossing to the starboard side and continuing away. A brief, but relatively close, fly-by look in good light, and immediately identified as "large shearwater" and "Great Shearwater" by several observers. By the time I got my camera up and focused, the bird was heading away.

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 shearwater with long, narrow/pointed wings; sharp contrast between dark cap and white throat/neck; dark upper wings with faint pale edging on dark upperwing coverts (More specific color of "dark" plumage from photos; not recorded at time of observation). All-black bill (from photos; not noted at time).

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 cap and white throat/neck, and by all-black bill.

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

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Zero (life bird)

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: 1230 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





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