

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 in fresh juvenal plumage (no indication of molt)
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **Plaquemines Parish**

Specific Locality: **Mississippi Canyon at Continental Shelf break, offshore Gulf of Mexico (GPS coordinates: 28.6309, -89.1627)**
4. Date(s) when observed: **15 September 2018**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~10:00 AM CDT**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler
13803 Crossing Way West
Edmond, OK 73013**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Justin Bosler, Hal Mitchell, Douglas Watson, Bob Foering, Abby Darrah, m. ob.**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **None.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Clear to partly cloudy sky with optimal mid-morning sunlight. Sun angle fairly high. Backlighting or glare not a problem.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42 (good condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **within 40-50 meters**

12. Duration of observation: **~5 min.**

13. Habitat: **Open, blue (deep) offshore Gulf of Mexico waters near Continental shelf edge and Mississippi Canyon.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

First observed resting on water's surface with relatively calm seas. Not observed actively feeding or preening. Also, observed in flight after being flushed up by our approaching boat. Generally cooperative considering it was solitary.

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):

A fairly large, robust shearwater with dark gray-brown upperparts and pale, white, mottled underparts. A neat, well-defined dark cap on head. Mostly white neck that wraps around to nape. Dark undertail coverts when resting on water. In flight, it showed long, narrow wings, white uppertail coverts (narrow white rump), dark patch on belly, mottled to clean white underwings (contrasting with dark remiges), and dark tail. Strong, stiff wingbeats on straight, narrow wings. Relatively thin, blackish bill. Dark flesh-colored legs and feet.

16. Voice: **Silent. No vocalizations heard.**

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

Separated from Cory's Shearwater (COSH) by dark underwing markings (observed in flight) and well-defined dark cap on head. Plus, slightly smaller and slender-winged than COSH. Separated from Manx Shearwater (MASH) by larger size, white collar on nape, and whitish uppertail coverts.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, digital photos obtained by Justin Bosler and attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

Fairly experienced with this species from many encounters off the East coast (Atlantic Ocean) from North Carolina to Massachusetts.

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **none**

21. This description is written from: **Yes** notes made during the observation (____notes attached?); **Yes** notes made after the observation (date:____); **Yes** memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes, absolutely positive.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **28 September 2019** Time: **1:30 PM CDT**

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

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

Photos: Justin Bosler



