

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: [Great Shearwater](#) (*[Puffinus gravis](#)*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1, age and sex unknown](#)

3. Parish: [Plaquemines](#)

Specific Locality: [28.798, -89.299; 10.7 mi SE of mouth of Southwest Pass, MS River.](#)

4. Date(s) when observed: [22 September 2018](#)

5. Time(s) of day when observed: [9:36 am](#)

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [21 other birders present, as listed: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48697041>, but only about half were at the front of the boat and able to see the bird. It was probably almost impossible to identify by sight alone given the distance and bumpiness of the boat.](#)

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): [Paul Conover, Cameron Rutt, and I are the only three aboard believed to have gotten photos.](#)

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Sunny. Bird was to the south in mid-morning light.](#)

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Didn't use binoculars, only camera. New Nikon D7200, with Nikon 80-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens in used condition

11. Distance to bird(s): ~1/4 mile, very roughly guessing. Hard to see with naked eye.

12. Duration of observation: About a minute

13. Habitat: green water, unsure of depth – Google Earth suggests 360 feet.

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

Paul Conover spotted the bird just to the right of the bow as it was flying from right to left. It mostly stayed below the horizon, banking as it flew just above the water. Powerful, but rapid flaps, interspersed with glides. The bird eventually kept flying off to the left and away and we could not keep up with it.

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*):

Without being familiar enough with shearwaters, I would not have been able to ID the bird by flight style. Plumage features only discernable by the photos. The bird had a brown cap, dark blackish bill, pale collar, brown upperparts (lighter along the inner wing), and white underparts (with a hint of dusky wash in the belly). The underwing was largely white, with a dark area toward the base of the wing, a dark trailing edge, and dark at the wingtips. The bird did not appear to be molting and to be in relatively fresh plumage. The undertail area looked dark, although it's hard to discern feet/legs from plumage.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Head pattern rules out other likely shearwaters (Cory's and Audubon's). The white collar rules out most other Northern hemisphere shearwaters. It did not have the broad white rump of Black-capped Petrel.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've only seen in the Atlantic, many years ago. I've been on about 6-8 Louisiana pelagics, so pretty rudimentary and irregular experience with this group of birds.

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

a. at time of observation: [None](#).

b. after observation: [Checked Sibley later that day, and subsequently have looked at Nat Geo 7th ED and Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of N.A. \(Howell 2012\).](#)

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: [Yes, unless there is a potential look-a-like shearwater that I'm not aware of.](#)

23. Date: [30 September 2018](#)

Time: [2:45 pm](#)

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](#)



