

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, *Ardenna gravis***

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **28°14.622, 88°57.225**

4. Date(s) when observed: **9 September**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 9:10-10:00 a.m.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **all other members of the pelagic crew (Hathaway, Lima, Muth, Myers, Remsen)**

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): **Sun at our backs for much of sighting time.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Vortex 12x, Nikon D3500 w/ 200 mm lens.**

11. Distance to bird(s): **we were able to drift right next to it, maybe 15-20 yards, and it was quite tame.**

12. Duration of observation: **probably about 15 minutes total**

13. Habitat: **“Deep blue water, mostly featureless. 5000' deep, water temp about 93 degrees, approx. 6" to 1' seas” per Muth on eBird list**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Mac spotted the bird among a group of flushing COSH and we slowly followed it to where it landed. It flew after a long perched observation.**

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*):

Large gray and white shearwater with dark cap. Mantle even medium gray with darker primary tips extending from gray mantle, and dark tail with thin white rump band. Cap about color of mantle, separated from mantle by largely white neck with thin grayish stripe along hindneck. Underparts white with broad dark smudge coming down from mantle onto sides of breast. Underwing white with dark border and dark centered lesser coverts, dark axillary stripe. Eye dark, tubenose bill dark.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **From AUSH by size, dark cap extending down over eye. From COSH by pattern, bill color.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **By many, mine attached here.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Not a lot; seen from ferries in the Maritimes several times, and once prior in LA from a great distance.**

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **Yes**

23. Date: **19 Sept 2023**

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**



