

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: **Audubon's Shearwater**

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

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28.2437639 -88.9519674, but birds were encountered at end of leg, which according to captain was about 14 miles from previous shearwater flock.**

4. Date(s) when observed: **9 September 2023**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 10:40-10:50 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): **Good, sun was good on both flying and perched bird**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **perhaps 30 yards on perched bird, prably 40-50 for bird in**

flight

12. Duration of observation: **off and on for about 10 minutes. There were a lot of birds we were scanning, and these would cross my sight every half minute or so**

13. Habitat: **“Moving east southeast in water more than 5000' deep, water temp about 93 degrees, approx. 6" to 1' seas. Air temp about 90. Wind northerly 5-10, skies w scattered clouds. Deep blue water, mostly featureless.” 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): **One bird was in flight, and was clearly different in build and flight mode from COSH. Those differences alerted me, and I was able to get a view that showed the fieldmarks. One bird was perched on the water.**

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*):

Shearwaters in same size class as Cory's, but with dark caps, white underparts, dark wedge on sides of neck extending onto underparts. Clear demarcation between cap and white sides of face. Upperparts dark and not scaled as Cory's. Thin white band across rump, dark tail.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **From Cory's by bill color, dark mark on side of neck/breast, darker upperparts.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **By me, included, of one bird.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Some, but scattered over the years**

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

23. Date: **28 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**

