

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**

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

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28°13'23.5"N 88°45'53.5"W, presumably ending at 28°11'23.9"N 88°32'55.2"W based on beginning point of next eBird list.**

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

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 11:17 a.m. -12:17 p.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): **Decent lighting, but sufficient**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **about 50 yards and up**

12. Duration of observation: **two sightings during this time frame, each short, of flying birds. As with other GRSH sightings that day, there were a lot of other**

birds I was looking though, and I basically spent enough time on these individuals to prove their ID to myself.

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): **In flight among many other shearwaters, including similar Cory's, moving around as boat drifted through a mixed flock of seabirds.**

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*):

Dark-backed, cleanly-capped shearwaters about the size of Cory's, with dark bills, smudgy patches extending down onto the sides of the neck, and thin white bands above tail. Nape appeared white at times, but thin dark area on hindneck visible at others.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Audubon's by size, Cory's by bill color, dorsal color, distinct dark cap, smudged breast sides.**

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

19. Previous experience with this species: **Perhaps a half-dozen occasions previously, including large numbers off Nova Scotia ferries.**

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**

