

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):
Three, conservative count

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Leg began at 28°11'23.9"N 88°32'55.2"W**

4. Date(s) when observed: **9 September**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **ca 12:17-1:26 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): **Excellent**

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

11. Distance to bird(s): **We got very close to one especially, and the others flew by close.**

12. Duration of observation: **We spent quite a bit of time among these birds and this area as we lingered in the area where the Brown Noddy had been seen. One of these birds I watched closely for at least five minutes straight.**

13. Habitat: **"Depth 6000'. Featureless blue. Seas still at most 1'. Edge of loop current. Scattered clouds, low 90s, light n winds. Reached 69 miles out after circling**

Ocean Blackhornet and BP Thunderhorse, then began heading north to South Pass," 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): **Birds in a very productive area with about 50 seabirds present. Birds tended to stay sitting on water until boat came too close, but occasionally birds would fly and resettle or forage.**

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, dark-capped shearwaters the size of Cory's, but seemingly plumper. Dark gray mantles, darker cap and tail, cap clearly demarcated from white face sides. Black bill. In flight birds appeared capped, but on the water one especially didn't look capped due to broad dark hindneck. Underwings white with broad dingy rear margin, scattered dark near bend of wing, and dark diagonal running toward bend of wing coming from junction of body and rear of wing. Dark extrusion from mantle onto sides of neck.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **AUSH by size, Cory's by bill color, capped appearance. From other possibilities by suite of fieldmarks combining to ID as Great.**

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

19. Previous experience with this species: **Some, including throughout that day.**

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**

















