

1. English and Scientific names: **Leach's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **1 very worn adult?**
3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **GOM, 30-35 Southeast of SW Pass, 28 23 38, 88 52 37**
4. Date(s) when observed: **9/21/15**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **0945 h**
6. Reporting observer and address: **David P. Muth, 2765 Orchid Ave., N.O. La. 70119**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Van Remsen, Charles Lyon, Dan O'Malley, Cathy DiSalvo, John Sevenair, Jean Trahan, Jeff Trahan**
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.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Eagle Optics Platinum Ranger 10x42**
11. Distance to bird(s): **within 100 feet**
12. Duration of observation: **a minute or so?**
13. Habitat: **blue water**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Seen in flight (came in over chum, I think after we'd stopped for Sperm Whales). "Mostly cloudy. Seas fairly calm, some light swells and rippling. Water depth 2200 ft. Water temp. 85.0. One or more Sperm Whales on surface briefly with large pod of 50+ large dolphins (perhaps Tursiops -- need to check photos) and perhaps other species."** from Ebird report by J.V. Remsen
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25161726>



Ideas?

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*): **A bedraggled, sooty brown storm petrel, large bill, legs shorter than tail, upper wing quite worn but with trace of pale ulnar bar (or is that just missing feathers?). Wing not pointed—molt? Tail slightly forked (in a couple of photos) but outer retrices very worn. Upper tail coverts white with a narrow dark central smudge. White rump pattern appears closer to a deeper “v” than a shallow “u”. White does not appear to wrap around into the under-tail.**

16. Voice: NA

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **WISP by tail shape and pattern, leg length, bill size, wing shape. BRSP is a little more difficult—the tail appears forked (but worn on the tips of the outer retrices) and the white rump band is partially divided and it appears somewhat v-shaped. Given the worn state of the bird’s plumage I suppose I cannot rule out a BRSP that is worn into a LESP pattern? Flight pattern seemed fine for LESP (deep wingbeats), but the bird is in such funky plumage and the wind and sea conditions were hardly challenging.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): 1) Yes

19.



cropped



cropped

cropped



cropped and brightened

20.

21. Previous experience with this species: **Several in Gulf over the years.**
22. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
- a. at time of observation:
- b. after observation: **Nat. Geo, Sibley, *Birding* Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 54-57.**
23. This description is written from:
- Memory **XX**
- Study of images **XX**
24. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **See caveat above.**
25. Date: **3/12/16**
26. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **yes**
- If yes, may we include your name with the report? **yes**