

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 unknown
3. Parish:
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:
Gulf of Mexico, from 33 to 24 miles southeast of South Pass
5. Date(s) when observed: August 17, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:59 pm
7. Reporting observer: Andrew From
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
David Vander Pluym, Vinay K.L., Van Remsen, David Muth and others
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
David Vander Pluym and others
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Extremely bright
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Eagle optics 8 x 40 (fair) Canon EOS rebel w/ 100 -400 mm good
12. Distance to bird(s): 30 meters
13. Duration of observation: approximately 1 minute
14. Habitat: open ocean/Gulf of Mexico
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird flew in from the stern of the boat off the port side, initially pointed out by Vinay, flew

down the port side as many pictures were taken by other participants. This was Leg 7 of pelagic trip arranged by Van Remsen.

16. 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):

Medium to large gull type bird, with grayish white chest, dark legs, big white wing flashes

17. Voice: none

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Laughing gull, eliminated by white wing flashes

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Yes, myself and others see ebird report for better quality pictures
(<https://ebird.org/checklist/S191991391>)

20. Previous experience with this species: None

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

eBird, NatGeo 7th edition

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes

24. Date report completed:

September 3, 2024

25. 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

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes

