

# 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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

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):  
**Four worn and molting (actively replacing inner primaries) presumed second-year (SY or older) individuals – one solitary and one group of 3 individuals assoc. with mixed-spp. storm-petrel raft**
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **Plaquemines Parish**  
  
Specific Locality: **ca. 46 mi. SSW of Southwest Pass, Mississippi Canyon**
4. Date(s) when observed: **24 July 2011**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~1:30 – 3:00 PM CDT**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler  
14112 Crossing Way East  
Edmond, OK 73013**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Justin Bosler, Jake Walker, Nick Lund, Dave Patton, m. ob.**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **N/A**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

**Clear sky with optimal midday/ early afternoon sunlight. Sun angle fairly high and away from observers. Backlighting or sun glare not problematic.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Kowa TSN 88 series w/ 88 mm angled eyepiece (40-60x zoom), Canon Powershot HS 110 digital elph point-and-shoot camera (equipment in excellent condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **ca. 20-30 meters**

12. Duration of observation: **~15-20 min.**

13. Habitat: **Open, pelagic blue waters over Mississippi (submarine) Canyon. Water depth ~1500'.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

**First observed at rest on water's surface. Then eventually flushed by boat and flew off and out of sight. First individual encountered was solitary. Then came across mixed-spp. group of storm-petrels shortly thereafter. All individuals were observed well and at close range in flight.**

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):

**A mid-sized, dark storm-petrel with long pointed wings and long, distinctly-notched (nearly forked) tail. Generally uniform dark brown upperparts and underparts. Pale, buffy carpal bar on dorsal surface of wings (slightly faded with wear). Darker brown-black flight feathers especially primaries (replaced inner primaries and retained older, worn outer primaries and ratty secondaries). Bold, split white rump patch above dark, nearly black, tail. Bold, white rump patch not wrapping around vent. Smoothly-rounded brown head. Blackish bill. Dark irides. Black tarsus and feet.**

16. Voice: **Generally silent.**

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

**Markedly longer-winged than Wilson's Storm-Petrel (WISP) with distinctly-notched tail longer than legs. Nighthawk-like flight style eliminates WISP and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (BANP). Split, white rump patch and notched/ forked (not cleft) tail eliminates both WISP and BANP. Distinct, pale, worn buffy carpal bar on dorsal surface of wing eliminates BANP. No white below on vent eliminates BANP.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, digital photos by Justin Bosler. Yes, attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

**Very familiar with this species from numerous pelagic trips off East coast in western North Atlantic waters.**

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **Various online/ web resources.**

21. This description is written from:   **Yes**   notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_\_notes attached?);   **Yes**   notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_);   **Yes**   memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes, absolutely positive.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **25 June 2015** Time: **7:00 PM CDT**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **Yes, please.**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **Yes, please.**