

1. English and Scientific names: **Audubon's Shearwater** *Puffinus lherminieri*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **1 at first location, >5 (est. 8) in second location-- ones and twos in area as we came up on birds, stopped, chummed, moved on.**
3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **28°40'12.0"N 89°13'34.0"W ; 28°27'33.8"N 89°05'54.6"W**
(positions mark mid-point of transects.
4. Date(s) when observed: **9/06/15**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **0845 h; 1045 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, Rob Dobbs, Danny Dobbs, Doug Liles, Willie Matthews, John Sevenair**
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): **less than 50 feet at**
12. Duration of observation: **1) leisurely over 10-15 minutes as we chummed. 2) Variable and no notes or specific memories of individuals by me.**
13. Habitat: **blue water, scattered sargassum.**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **1) Sitting on the surface in calm seas. It was being harassed by a POJA. When the POJA attacked it would dive, swim away and pop back to the surface, only to be harassed again. The POJA was not being very aggressive—it too would sit on the water between attacks and then, seemingly grudgingly, take off and fly to where the AUSH had surfaced; not clear if it was trying to kill the AUSH or just force it to disgorge something. The AUSH eventually took wing but I do not recall if it actually left the area. 2) The remaining birds were found later in the day as we traversed a fairly birdy stretch but I was working chum and left the photography to me better, except one below. Somebody got good photos of many of those birds.**
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*): **1) A small shearwater in direct comparison to much larger POJA. Very dark brown above, white below. Plumage ratty. White of throat curling into auriculars. Eye in black cap. Under-tail coverts dark. <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S24923827> 2)**

Unfortunately I don't even have a memory or a photo of most of those later birds, but see <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S24933293>

16. Voice: NA

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **1) Manx Shearwater** by size, face pattern, dark under-tail coverts.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Others should have much better photos, and see Ebird reports. Two cropped of number one by me below. One cropped of one of the later birds that does not show much.**

AUSH 1





AUSH 1



AUSH 2

19. Previous experience with this species: **Several in Gulf over the years, once in Bahamas.**

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

Memory **XX**

Study of images **XX**

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **Yes**

23. Date: **3/8/16**

24. 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**