

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
3. Parish: Plaquemines
Specific Locality: ca. 36-37 mi SE of South Pass
4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Encountered from 12:38-12:39 p.m. (adjusted for the fact that my timestamps are an hour off as I had the camera set for a different time zone), and I believe the same bird was encountered again from 12:51-12:53.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. Conover, Lafayette LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Many; pelagic trip
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): Sunny, light excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x binos, Nikon D3300 camera with 200mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): Down to perhaps 30 yards.
12. Duration of observation: 5 minutes
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): Bird seen in flight, and I believe was reencountered several minutes later in flight but followed until it landed and was approached at photographed at close range.
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*): Small "black and white" shearwater, dark above, pale below. Diffuse demarcation between light and dark on face horizontal at about the level of the eye, more or less capped with some dark streaking on pale auriculars below cap. Pale area below eye but where this pale area wrapped narrowly behind and over eye in first Audubon's of the day, this bird showed dark behind the eye; white above eye broadening into a whitish loreal or supraloral spot before eye above a dark fore-eyeline. Fore-eyeline connected to bridge of bill, with white below; thus, gape positioned in the white of the face. Eye dark. Bill dark gray or dark blue gray with

blackish nail.





Dorsal surface including wings dark brown with mix of paler worn areas and darker areas of newly replaced feathering. 3 outer primaries worn and pale versus dark replaced inner primaries.



Bird encountered at 12:38, above, and 12:51, below, for comparison.





Graduated tail appeared worn but in fairly good condition. Ventral surface including wings largely white. Dark of the dorsal area extended ventrally onto sides of breast forming partial collar. Pale of ventral area extended dorsally onto sides of mantle as small semicircles at rear edge of wing.





Wing lining white, outlined by dark outline on leading edge of wing and broad and diffuse dark trailing edge of wing. Small diffuse darkish smudge against white wing lining near joint of humerus and ulna and radius.



Vent or proximal undertail coverts white, distal undertail coverts smudged darker.

Legs in photos appear pale (color hard to determine, appearing anywhere from pink to pale blue).

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Pale markings around eye, dark distal undertail coverts, broadly outlined underwings with dark internal markings in combination seem to eliminate other similar shearwaters.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by many. Mine attached to this report.

19. Previous experience with this species: Minimal, on precious LA pelagics.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: After writing the description, I consulted the Princeton seabirds book to study similar species.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: All marks point to Audubon's, and I have no reason to doubt the ID.

23. Date: 11 September 2017

Time: 7:51 p.m.