

# 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 12:30-12:31 p.m. (adjusted for the fact that my timestamps are an hour off as I had the camera set for a different time zone).
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): Perhaps 50 yards.
12. Duration of observation: 1-2 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): Judging from the photos, this bird was only seen on the wing, and seen only briefly.
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.  
Facial features not readily discernible but there appears to be a hint of white around the eye.  
This individual appeared fresher than most others seen during the day, although photo views are limited. Underwing with white lining, and dark leading and trailing edge, with dark intruding into the wing lining near the distal end of the humerus. Undertail coverts

dark. Collar not conspicuous in angles photographed, or perhaps absent.



16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Dark distal undertail coverts, broadly outlined underwings with dark internal markings in combination point to Audubon's. Lack of view of facial pattern is a minus.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): I may have been the only person to photograph this bird.

19. Previous experience with this species: Minimal; this trip topped my previous total count.

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:

	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	
	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
x	memory	
x	study of images	

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: The dark undertail and the underwing pattern best fit Audubon's. Longshots are always possible.

23. Date: 11 September 2017

Time: 8:03 p.m.