

# 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 at 1:20 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): 50-100 yards.
12. Duration of observation: 1 minute
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): This bird was only seen in flight, I believe. A bird seen on the water 4 minutes later appears to have different primary molt progression.
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 appear to include white around back of eye and pale lore.

This individual appeared very worn, with 4 worn outer primaries contrasting with newer inner primaries. Underwing not clearly visible in photos. Distal undertail coverts appear dark. Partial collar conspicuous. Patches of white revealing ongoing upperwing covert

molt were obvious.





16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Dark distal undertail coverts, facial pattern in combination point to Audubon's.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, probably by several. Mine attached.

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:

<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 type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: The visible features indicate AUSH. I believe the ID is correct.

23. Date: 15 September 2017

Time: 8:45 p.m.