

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):
1 individual
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 1:26-1:26
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 20-30 yards, up to perhaps 70 yards.
12. Duration of observation: Each observation lasted from around 2 minutes to perhaps 3-4 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): Flushed, landed, we approached and flushed it again.
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. White narrowly above eye and onto lore. White underwing bordered broadly in black, with dark intrusion into white underwing at the forward edge near the first bend of the wing. Dark distal undertail coverts. This individual showed faded secondaries and 3 faded and badly worn outer primaries separated by fresh inner primaries, creating a piebald upperwing panel. Bill paler (blue-gray?) with dark tip, legs paler (blue gray?) with black stripe running down rear of leg onto toes (which appear to have some dark, versus what appears to be paler webs).





16. Voice:

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

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by many. Mine attached. My settings were accidentally knocked onto "Effects" and my pictures are in B and W—not as bad as other possible effects.

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: I think that the combination of features rules out any shearwater that we could expect to occur in these numbers.

23. Date: 18 September 2017

Time: 9:05 p.m.