

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Audubon's Shearwater*, *Puffinus lherminieri*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
Two, one in primary molt; molt status of other bird not clear from (my) photos. (Possibly a third bird here, but unclear from notes/photos.)
3. Locality: Parish: Gulf of Mexico (nearest parish = Plaquemines)
Specific Locality: 28.5384, -88.8338 (ca. 37 mi SE of Miss. River South Pass jetty)



Exact locality at “1335” icon, in relation to other AUSH records for day

4. Date(s) when observed: *2 September 2017*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1335 CDT*

6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Paul Conover, John Dillon, Danny Dobbs, Marty Guidry, Erik Johnson, Hal Mitchell, David Muth, Larry Raymond, Van Remsen (these are simply the people I recall nearby), et al.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright, sunny, clear sky.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): First bird probably not closer than 100-150 m (?); second bird as close as 30 m (?), based on photos
12. Duration of observation: at least 1-2 min, based on photo timestamps
13. Habitat: sargassum line, blue water
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Both birds initially on the water, one allowing close approach, before flushing.
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): Small shearwaters with medium length, slender, grayish bills, contrasting blackish above and white below--except for blackish undertail coverts. Upperparts uniformly sooty grayish-black crown, nape, back, and upper tail. Upper wing also uniformly dark, but variable due to wear and molt--ranging from sooty-blackish of fresh inner primaries, to paler, more brownish and grayish tones of old/worn secondaries, secondary coverts, and outer primaries. Auriculars mostly white; white spot above eye on both birds.
16. Voice: Not vocal
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Manx Shearwater eliminated by dark undertail coverts, mostly white auriculars, white spot over eye.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): [Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [Very limited -- I had only seen one AUSH prior to this trip, and I've never seen Manx.](#)

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

a. at time of observation: [None](#)

b. after observation: [Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America \(Howell 2012\)](#)

21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation (notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date:); memory; photos taken during observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: [Yes](#)

23. Date: [16 Sep 2017](#) Time: [1350 CDT](#)

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](#)

BIRD 1



Bird 1; timestamp 1335



Bird 1; timestamp 1335

BIRD 2



Bird 2; timestamp 1336



Bird 2; timestamp 1336



Bird 2; timestamp 1336