

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

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, sex and age unknown.
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality: Gulf of Mexico—open ocean, exact location unknown but somewhere north of 25.777590, -89.869890
4. Date(s) when observed: 22 December 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:00 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Mark A. Greene, 194 Mt. Orange Road, Trenton, TN 38382
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None
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): Sunny with good light. Observations made on the east side of the ship as we were headed north.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 Classic binoculars and Zeiss Victory 85mm Diascope with 20-60x eyepiece.
11. Distance to bird(s): 60 to 100 yards

12. Duration of observation: about 4 minutes

13. Habitat: Open ocean

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I was watching for seabirds from the balcony deck of our room aboard the Carnival Triumph cruise ship. I spotted the bird with my binoculars and then got my scope on the bird. Bird seen flying and gliding low over the water. I noted a small, slimly built shearwater with a fairly proportionately long tail and relatively short wings with fairly blunt tips. Flight was direct and wingbeats were fast and snappy.

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*): Bird was generally dark brown above and light below but I noted dark undertail coverts on the bird as it banked twice. Crown of head was slightly darker giving the bird a capped appearance. Dark on the head and face extended down to just below the eye. There appeared to be a white smudge on the face just in front of the eye. Margins of the underwings were dark with the center of the underwings being white.

16. Voice: None detected.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Differentiated from Manx Shearwater by its dark undertail coverts and from larger shearwaters by its size and smaller proportions.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None obtained and bird was flying very actively so I chose to stay on the bird in my scope rather than trying to obtain photos which would have been very difficult.

19. Previous experience with this species: None, but I had been studying the possible seabirds that I might see for several weeks prior to this trip, both in books and by watching video online (YouTube, etc.). This was one of the species that I had studied.

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

a. at time of observation: None, I stayed on the birds and made audio notes on my phone during the observations, only referencing the field guides after the birds had disappeared.

b. after observation: I had the Sibley Guide and Peter Harrison's Seabirds on the ship

with me.

21. This description is written from: I used the voice record on my phone to verbally record the plumage details, etc. and then made written notes from those audio recordings.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audio notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Written notes made after the observation.	At what date?	12/22/2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes.

23. Date: 12/28/17

Time: 10:45 am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes