

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby Sula leucogaster
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
4 individuals seen floating on lake together in a tight group. All same size, same body and bill shape, all dark, same pointed up tails. Only 3 seen in flight at one time showing 2 adults and one juvenile. Fourth bird age undetermined.
3. Parish: St Tammany
Specific Locality: Lake Pontchartrain, Mandeville, La. Seen from shore at end of Holly Street, Lewisburg Estates
4. Date(s) when observed: 1/04/2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:45 -10:30 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: Cathy DiSalvo 7304 Stoneleigh Drive Harahan LA 70123 cathydisalvo1@gmail.com
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Rosemary Seidler
Lizette Wroten
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): 100% cloud cover, but clear
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): zeiss victory binoculars 10x40 Swarovski ATS 80 20x60 Also seen by Rosemary with her 20X40 Swarovski scope
11. Distance to bird(s) approximately .5-.75 mi away
12. Duration of observation: 40 minutes
13. Habitat: open water (lake) with mild wave action, no breaking crests, 57 degrees, recent front with rain night before from the NW.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
A pair of adult boobies were first seen as I was scanning the lake, observing for bird

species as part of a Christmas CBC. They were first seen with binoculars in one field of view, flying about 15 'above the water. After about 15 sec they landed on the water. Once scoped we found there were 3 boobies, floating in a tight pack. After a few minutes a 4th bird flew in but was drab brown overall. Rosemary, with her own scope, Lizette with camera and myself continues to observe birds as they floated in the lake, trying to photograph them for 40 minutes. At which time I consulted the National Geographic field guide for further diagnostic features and to rule out other possible species. After 40 minutes they took off flying to the west until they were out of view.

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*):

First observed 2 moderately large birds (larger than herring gull) flying...with narrow bodies and narrow pointed wings, long pointed tail. (similar flight and shape as northern gannet). Clear views from underneath showed bright clean white breast and dark brown head to mid breast cleanly demarcated. Bills were pale, long and pointed, thick at the base. Tail was long and dark. Axillaries were also bright white with dark brown wing tips from underneath. In the water the 4 birds (we had decided probable brown boobies) all were same size, dark on top, with same pale large pointed bills, and dark pointed tails, pointing upward. They were close in size to common loon that was floating nearby.

The one juvenile observed was a drab brown overall without any noticeable white in wing or tail, but had same shape and was same size as other 3 birds. Bill appeared darker.

16. Voice: did not vocalize

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Brown head with bright white belly and clean line of demarcation between the two and pale bill, separated at least 2 of these birds from other sulids. Had pale bill separating it from other dark headed boobies. The one juvenile was dark all over without white in tail of other immature sulid species (juvenile bluefooted)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
All photos provided by Lizette Wroten

19. Previous experience with this species: seen 3 times before.

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

a. at time of observation:

confirmed ID with aid with National Geographic Field Guide to birds of North America

b. after observation: Sibley field guide

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	Audio taped notes per iphone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	1/4/2015 with all observers
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

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

23. Date: 1/18/2015

Time:11AM

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_____