

# 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): 5 at 06:35 CDT and 2 at 12:01 CDT. Details of sex, age, and plumage not determinable.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: St Tammany Parish  
Specific Locality: Mile marker 16.2 Lake Pontchartrain Causeway; Coordinates: [30.258429, -90.112210]
4. Date(s) when observed: 07/11/2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 06:35 CDT and 12:01 CDT.
6. Reporting observer and address: Nancy L Newfield  
Casa Colibrí  
3016 45th Street  
Metairie, LA 70001  
504-338-3882
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Steve Locke, Jenny Hazlehurst.
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): Full daylight in early morning and at noon. There was no shade, but sun was toward the east in the AM and almost directly overhead at noon.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): No optical equipment used.
11. Distance to bird(s): about 250 yards at 06:35, and about 100 yards at 12:01.
12. Duration of observation: about 1 minute at 06:35, and about 20 seconds at 12:01.
13. Habitat: Over open very calm water of large, shallow lake.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying. On our early AM trip north on the Causeway, we kept our eyes open to see if we might find any. We had not seen a single individual since the initial sighting on 03/28/2015.
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):

Although they were too distant to note any specific plumage characteristics, the long, pointed

wings, the relatively large size, and the overall dark brown coloration separated them from other species usually seen over Lake Pontchartrain.

Similarly, the 2 individuals noted at noontime while we were travelling southward did not present themselves for good viewing. I recognized them by their overall coloration, size, Sulid shape, and manner of flight – powerful, steady wing beats, just before they flew downward under the bridge structure.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Not really to eliminate other Sulid species, but was near the location where Locke and I observed a Brown Booby on 03/28/2015 and where many other observers have also noted varying numbers up to 15 of this species as reported on LABIRD-L listserv, facebook LABIRD, and eBird since our initial observation. Very shortly after we crossed the drawbridge, we were able to spy 5 Brown Boobies flying approximately 250 yards north west moving farther away from the structure. Locke was driving.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None.

19. Previous experience with this species: Have observed numerous individuals twice from Little Tobago Island (10/24/1994, 06/19/1997) [Trinidad and Tobago], several times on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, including Marengo (03/11/1993), July 2003 and 2005, and in the Mississippi River 8 miles downriver from Venice, Louisiana (08/31/2013), as well at the aforementioned 03/28/2015 observation.

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

None.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_\_ notes attached?)  notes made after the observation (date: 13:00 on 07/11/2015);  memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter:

Nancy L Newfield Date: 07/11/2015. Time: 14:00 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.