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):
   Four; two adults (presumed females – based on facial skin coloration), one subadult, one juvenile (one-year-old)

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **St. Tammany Parish**

Specific Locality: **Causeway Bridge (MP 16.5 southbound span) over Lake Pontchartrain, ca. 8 mi. S of Mandeville**

4. Date(s) when observed: **12 June 2015**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~8:45 – 8:47 AM CDT**

6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler**
   14112 Crossing Way East
   Edmond, OK 73013

7. <u>Other observers</u> accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Justin Bosler**

8. <u>Other observers who</u> *independently identified* the bird(s): **Nancy Newfield, Steve Locke (originally discovered one individual on 28 March), m. ob. since late March through late fall 2015.**

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Mostly clear sky with optimal early AM sunlight. Sun angle fairly high at time of observation. Backlighting or glare not problematic.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Canon Powershot HS 110 digital elph point-and-shoot camera (equipment in excellent condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **within 75-100 meters**

12. Duration of observation: **~1-2 min.**

13. Habitat: **Open, relatively shallow freshwater/ brackish lake with numerous concrete, metal, and wooden structures.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

All four individuals were only observed in flight, wingtip-to-wingtip, as a single group. First observed flying in from the west, relatively low (<20') over water's surface, towards the Causeway bridge southbound span. Presumably perching on or below the bridge. Not observed continuing off to east. Relatively brief encounter considering multiple passes northbound and southbound on Causeway bridge.

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):

A medium-sized sulid with slender body, proportionately long, pointed wings, overall dark brown plumage, and long tubular bill. Solid medium-dark brown head and upperparts. Brown head and throat contrasting sharply with bright white underparts from breast down to vent (dirty to smudgy pale, mottled white-brown belly on younger individuals). Prominent yellow-flesh facial skin (grayish-blue on juvenile). Pale horn-yellow bill. Dark irides. Legs and feet not visible.

16. Voice: **Silent.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Unmistakable. No other similar N.A. sulids.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, photos by Justin Bosler. Yes, attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

Very familiar with this species from numerous encounters in s. FL and the Keys, TX, and LA. Four other individuals from two prior occasions in two other parishes in LA.

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **Various online/ web resources.**

21. This description is written from: __**Yes**___ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?);__**Yes**___notes made after the observation (date:_____); __**Yes**__memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **9 March 2016** Time: **1:00 PM CST**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or
portions of this report on its webite? **Yes, please.**
If yes, may we include your name with the report? **Yes, please.**