

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
20 of various ages
3. Parish: St. Tammany  
Specific Locality: Pilings adjacent to drawbridge (or control structure of some sort) near mile marker 16.2
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 July 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: various
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. Conover, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): several. Dave Patton, Danny Dobbs, and Rob Dobbs
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): A great number.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 w/200 mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): We idled very close to the pilings where the birds were roosting
12. Duration of observation: We observed the birds for 10 minutes or so, then went elsewhere and returned later to observe for a few more minutes
13. Habitat: Pilings supporting the Ponchartrain Causeway bridge. Only certain types of pilings seemed to suit their tastes.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): When we arrived, the birds were roosting on pilings. Now and then some would fly to shift perches. We left and returned to find that some had departed. As we watched, more began to fly, circling us to find new perches, or drifting into the distance presumably to feed.
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*):

Twenty birds all fitting the solid pattern of long stocky neck tapering to a long, stout, strongly pointed bill, somewhat wedge-shaped tail extending about as far rearward as neck and head extend forward, and long, narrow wings tapering to a point.

Most of the birds were either adults or immatures showing the developing pattern of adult plumage. All showed pale pinkish bills, yellow facial skin enveloping the eyes, yellow gular patches, and lores of bluish/grayish color. In younger birds, the colors were not as vivid. Eyes were medium pale blue or gray. Legs bare and yellow.

Basic plumage pattern was brown or brownish above, with the color extending onto the head, neck, and upper breast as a sharply demarcated long hood. Adult birds showed white bellies and underwings, while younger birds showed the same pattern with dingy white below.

16. Voice: Not noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The pattern is diagnostic for Brown Booby.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, a variety of setting and individual bird shots attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: None—it was a life bird for me.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	mental
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 2/7/2016































