

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 20 total (15 adult/near-adult, 5 sub-adult)
3. Locality: Parish: St. Tammany
Specific Locality: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, mile marker 16.2-16.3
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 July 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1215-1230 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dave Patton, Paul Conover, Danny Dobbs
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Dave Patton, Paul Conover, Danny Dobbs, and many others prior to and following 26 July 2015
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright, sunny mid-day light; birds observed in sunshine and in shade of bridge
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos, good condition
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 50 m
12. Duration of observation: 15 min
13. Habitat: tidally-influenced inland lake; water was pretty fresh and relatively clear/green on the day of observation
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and

stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): All birds were initially perching/loafing on bridge abutments, but then became more active, often making short flights and returning to perches, or making long flights SW out of sight

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): Adults and near-adults with dark/chocolate brown upperparts, head, and breast, contrasting strongly with clean white belly and undertail coverts, and with bright yellow bills, facial skin, and legs/feet. "Sub-adults" generally similar, but with bluish-gray bills, reduced yellow facial skin, and dingier bellies.

16. Voice: I don't recall (and did not write any notes on voice), but it seems like one bird uttered a few low-pitched, croaking-like phrases.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Adults (and near-adults) distinctive – combination of dark brown upperparts, head and breast, clean white belly/vent, yellow bill/facial skin, and yellow legs/feet, unlike any age-sex classes of other sulid species. Juv/first year Masked Booby most similar, but has dark legs/feet and, in flight, more extensive white in underwing and rump. Juv/first year Blue-footed Booby differentiated by dark bill and by dark legs/feet.

All of the "sub-adult" Brown Boobies that we saw showed a plumage pattern similar to that of the adults (but subdued, not as bright), and were identified as "sub-adult" by their bluish-gray bills; these birds had yellow in the facial skin and yellow legs/feet.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: several adults seen in Louisiana in 2013 (Calcasieu Par.) and 2014 (St. Tammany Par.), and, less recently, in the Neotropics

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Sibley

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?); _____notes made after the observation (date:_____);

memory; photos made during the observation.

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

23. Date: 6 January 2015 Time: 2100 CST

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 _____

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