

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 individual, unknown sex and age. Plumage: dark head, back, and wings with stark white belly
3. Parish: Saint Charles Parish
Specific Locality: On a piling in Lake Pontchartrain just north of I-10 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway
4. Date(s) when observed: November 29, 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Approximately 5PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Crystal N. Johnson, 9258 Boone Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Jim Boutte
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Jim Boutte
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): There was no shade, and no discernible shadows, but twilight was starting, and the sun was low in the sky.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bare eyes (though I have 20/15 vision, which means I can see well from afar)
11. Distance to bird(s): Approximately 100 feet?

12. Duration of observation: 5 seconds?

13. Habitat: Wooden piling sticking out of Lake Pontchartrain

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Perched on a piling sticking out of Lake Pontchartrain

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*): I could tell the bird was large because it was perched on a piling next to a piling on which a Brown Pelican was perched. I knew that it stood out as different because it resembled a penguin with poor posture and a large rump. Its wings, back, and head were dark, and it had a white belly, with a light-colored bill. I fully admit that I would not have identified that bird as a Brown Booby without the numerous other previous reports, but I also admit that I would have immediately recognized that this bird was different from the other usual suspects because I have 20/15 vision and can see well from afar.

16. Voice: Unknown

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Cormorants, gulls, and terns. I ruled out cormorant because the posture and head shape were wrong and because the white on the front was so stark and bright. I ruled out gull or tern because of the large size and because the bill seemed to extend onto the face like a mask.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No

19. Previous experience with this species: None. Based on others' previous reports of Brown Boobies in that area, I'd searched several times while driving and riding as a passenger over I-10 near the Bonnet Carre Spillway, with no luck until yesterday.

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

a. at time of observation: Consultation with Jim Boutte, the vehicle's driver, who agreed that it was a Brown Booby

b. after observation: Consultation with my iBird app (Android) and with Jim Boutte, the vehicle's driver, who confirmed after viewing several images online that we saw a Brown Booby, although admittedly for a shorter time because he was the driver yesterday.

21. This description is written from:

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

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

23. Date: November 30, 2015

Time: 12:49 PM

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 to including my name, but Jim would prefer not to be displayed so publicly _____