

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):
One individual, adult identified by adult plumage
3. Parish: St. Tammany
Specific Locality: 16.6 Mile marker on Causeway bridge southbound
4. Date(s) when observed:
March 28, 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
11:50 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address:
Steve Locke 4917 Hearst St. Apt #207, Metairie, LA 70001
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Nancy L. Newfield
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):
The bird was flying East in full sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Unaided eye
11. Distance to bird(s):
100 feet
12. Duration of observation:
5 seconds
13. Habitat:
The habitat is a shallow estuarine embayment 15 to 20 feet deep. The bird was observed about 8 miles from the North shore.

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

I was driving South, and after passing the toll plaza on the Causeway and after merging in steady traffic we discussed a bird that Nancy Newfield had observed last week under similar conditions. She reiterated her observations and I gave my impression of a dark bird that I could not conclude was a Brown Booby. I asked for the field marks of the Brown Booby. Nancy listed details about color patterns. Shortly thereafter Nancy Newfield observed the bird first and said "there it is."

When I looked at the bird, it was gliding East toward the southbound lane of the Causeway and my view was head-on looking West at the bird long enough to remember the bill color, general shape and color pattern of the bird.

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*):

The bird appeared uniform brown on the wings and head, with a dark brown front or breast. The bill was pale yellow and elongated. The bird was about 1/5 larger in appearance than a Black Skimmer. The neck was not visible head-on. The neck was not long enough to be bent below the head. The bulk of the body appeared smaller relative to the wings than that of a Ring-billed gull or Brown Pelican. The bill was longer than 4 inches and pale yellow. The maxilla and mandible were even. The eyes appeared to bulge outward from the head. The color was brown above and on the head. The front or breast appeared dark brown and the belly was bright white.

16. Voice: The bird did not call.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

The Black Skimmer is similar in shape in my experience with black above and white below. This contrasts with the black breast and white belly seen in the bird in question. The bill color for a Black Skimmer is orange and black, distinctly different from the pale yellow bill of the Brown Booby. Also, the Black Skimmer bill is uneven, in that the maxilla is noticeably shorter than the mandible.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Please see attached sketch.

19. Previous experience with this species:

No previous experience

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

a. at time of observation:

Nancy Newfield

b. after observation:

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 6th Ed. , The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Ed. and Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	X
X	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	3-29-15
X	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

I am positive the bird is an adult Brown Booby.

