

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*, probably Atlantic subspecies.
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 in adult plumage.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: St Tammany Parish,  
Specific Locality: mile marker 16.6 Lake Pontchartrain Causeway,  
coordinates[30.258429,-90.112210]
4. Date(s) when observed: 03/28/2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:50 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Nancy L Newfield  
Casa Colibrí  
3016 45th Street  
Metairie, LA 70001  
504-338-3882
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Steve Locke
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sun high overhead on a clear day near noontime. The bird was in full shade. I was in a vehicle travelling southbound at 60 mph.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): No optical equipment used.
11. Distance to bird(s): 100 feet.
12. Duration of observation: about 45 seconds.
13. Habitat: open water of Lake Pontchartrain.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Steve Locke and I were travelling southward on the Lake Pontchartrain, discussing a possible Brown Booby sighting of mine from the previous week near the drawbridge. We follow that route on the way home from our weekly banding session in Covington every week, usually on Saturday, and usually a little before noon insofar as the session concludes at 11:00. The bird was on the west side of the bridge flying eastward toward the 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): This was a medium-sized [approximately 30 inches, considerably larger than nearby

Ring-billed Gulls] Sulid, distinguished as such by its 'pointed at both ends' appearance and rather stiff-winged flapping. The head, back, upper chest, and upper wing surface were dark brown. The clean white lower chest and belly were sharply delineated from the upper chest. The relatively long, heavy, bright yellow bill sloped from the head without forming an angle from the browline and it ended in a point. Legs and feet were tucked up into the feathers of the underparts, thus being out of sight.

16. Voice: none heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The bird was smaller than a Northern Gannet. The combination of dark brown head and upperparts, sharply delineated white lower breast and belly, and bright yellow bill sets it apart from all other Sulids.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): none.

19. Previous experience with this species: Have observed twice from Little Tobago Island (10/24/1994, 06/19/1997) [Trinidad and Tobago], several times on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, including Marenco (03/11/1993), July 2003 and 2005, and in the Mississippi River 8 miles downriver from Venice, Louisiana (08/31/2013).

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*  
*The Sibley Guide to Birds*  
*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_\_ notes attached?)   x   notes made after the observation (date: 03/28/2015); \_\_\_ memory. Notes made immediately after arriving home.

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

23. Signature of reporter:

Nancy L Newfield

Date: 03/28/2015

Time: 15:31 CDT

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.