

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):
5 total; both adults and juvenile seen (see #4)

3. Louisiana - Parish: St. Tammany Parish and Jefferson Parish

Specific Locality: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway bridge; observed on several dates at different mile markers

4/6/2015: Mile marker 16, south bound - St. Tammany Parish

5/20/2015: Mile marker 18.1, south bound - St. Tammany Parish

5/22/2015: Mile marker 18.8 south bound - St. Tammany Parish

Mile marker 4 south bound - Jefferson Parish

Mile marker 2.4 north bound - Jefferson Parish

5/25/2015: Mile marker 16.4 on turnaround - St. Tammany Parish

6/17/2015: Mile marker 15.4 south bound - St. Tammany Parish

4. Date(s) when observed:

4/6/2015: 1 adult, 1 juvenile

5/20/2015: 1 adult

5/22/2015: 3 birds (St. Tammany)

1 adult, 1 juvenile (Jefferson)

1 adult (Jefferson)

5/22/2015: 1 adult

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

4/6/2015: 8:05 am

5/20/2015: 6:45 am

5/22/2015: 7:00 am - 7:15 am

5/22/2015: 3:55 pm

5/25/2015: 8:30 am

6/17/2015: 6:45 am

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jody Shugart
jodyshugart@gmail.com
985.237.5091 (cell phone)
121 Belle Terre Blvd
Covington, LA
70433

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): N/A

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): N/A

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): not recorded

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon D5100 with 300mm but usually seen by naked eye

11. Distance to bird(s): typically flying just off of bridge, sometimes flying on side of bridge like pelicans and gulls tend to do. I've seen what I've thought could be these birds on many other occasions but distance was too great to verify.

12. Duration of observation: brief, several seconds. bird on 5/25/2015 was observed for 5 minutes

13. Habitat: Lake Pontchartrain, open water with bridge

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

Flying

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):

Large to medium sized birds, dark black looking backs, white undersides, bold light faces. Birds I've identified as juveniles were either dark all over with light faces (Jefferson juvenile on 5/22/15) or had speckled white undersides

16. **Voice:** not noted

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

Immature birds could have been immature Masked Booby. I can't rule that out.

18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):** One set of photos obtained on 5/25/2015. Attached.

19. **Previous experience with this species:** Seen off San Salvador in the Bahamas on small islands in college. Saw adults last November in Florida Keys at Dry Tortugas National Park. Easily seen on channel markers from ferry.

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

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brown_Booby/id
The Sibley Guide to Birds

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. **This description is written from:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	No; see eBird
x	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Day of
x	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. **Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:** Yes, except in case of immature birds as noted on #17

23. **Date:** 6/22/2015

Time: 9:30

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.







Checklist S23582516

Location **Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 2), Jefferson County, Louisiana, US**

Date and Effort **Fri May 22, 2015 3:55 PM**

Protocol: Incidental

Party Size: 1

Observers: **Jody Shugart**

Comments: Driving northbound on my return commute from work. Brown booby spotted at 2.4 mm

Species **2 species total**

1 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Dark bird, white underside, light face and beak. Seen at mile marker 2.4 on my return trip across the bridge. Flying southbound on east side of bridge drifting on thermals (?) just like the pelicans usually do although no pelicans were seen.

Second sighting today and the furthest south on the bridge I've seen one.

1 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia (Feral Pigeon)*

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

No

Checklist S23940922

Location **Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 15), St. Tammany County, Louisiana, US**

Date and Effort **Wed Jun 17, 2015 6:45 AM**

Protocol: Incidental

Party Size: 1

Observers: **Jody Shugart**

Comments: Driving Causeway southbound

Species **2 species total**

1 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Continuing bird. Saw circling just off Causeway at Mile Marker 15.4.
Dark brown back, white underneath, light white/yellowish beak/face.

1 Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

No

Checklist S22715963

Location Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 16), St. Tammany County, Louisiana, US

Date and Effort Mon Apr 06, 2015 8:05 AM

Protocol: Incidental

Party Size: 1

Observers: **Jody Shugart**

Comments: Usual morning commute. Submitted list because of two BRBO spotted at mile marker 16 southbound.

Species 5 species (+1 other taxa) total

2 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Birds were at mile marker 16 southbound on west side of bridge flying together (20' apart) flew perpendicular to bridge then veered off to the north giving me a brief but very close (50') view of both birds. Both birds black with white underneath, black lining around wings and neck and at least one had some speckling on chest. Noted a white face on one bird.

They were large birds (brown pelican size) that in turning flew similarly to Northern Gannets (vertically instead of horizontally like pelicans usually do) with pointy wings outstretched. No photos obtained as I was driving at the time.

5 Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

1 Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

20 gull sp. *Larinae sp.*

2 Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*

2 Purple Martin *Progne subis*

At base of Causeway (southbound)

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

No

Checklist S23631299

Location Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 16), St. Tammany County, Louisiana, US

Date and Effort Mon May 25, 2015 8:30 AM

Protocol: Traveling
Party Size: 1
Duration: 10 minute(s)
Distance: 7.0 mile(s)
Observers: **Jody Shugart**
Comments: Driving southbound

Species 5 species total

Hide Media

1 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

At Mile Marker 16.4 turnaround.



From [Lake Pontchartrain Brown Booby](#)

12 American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Flock in the water on west side of Causeway at mile marker 5

1 Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*

2 Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

1 Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

Yes

Checklist S23574400

Location **Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 18), St. Tammany County, Louisiana, US**

Date and Effort **Fri May 22, 2015 7:00 AM**

Protocol: Incidental

Party Size: 1

Observers: **Jody Shugart**

Comments: At mile marker 18.8 driving southbound on Lake Pontchartrain Causeway

Species **1 species total**

5 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Large dark brown birds, white undersides, light faces. Saw 3 together flying north at mile marker 18.8 on Causeway about 75' west of the bridge.

Saw 2 more at mile marker 4 flying southbound. One on west side of bridge and one on east side. Definitely not the same birds as I was traveling at 65 MPH.

This is the largest number of these birds I've counted since I've been sporadically been seeing them on my daily commute across the lake since April 6.

3x5 submitted.

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

No

Checklist S23544261

Location Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (MM 18), St. Tammany County, Louisiana, US

Date and Effort Wed May 20, 2015 6:45 AM

Protocol: Incidental

Party Size: 1

Observers: **Jody Shugart**

Comments: Only submitted for continuing rare bird sighting while driving across Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. Mile Marker 18.1 in southbound lane.

Species 1 species total

1 **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

Large dark backed bird, white underside with white/lightish face. Seen flying parallel to Lake Pontchartrain Causeway bridge at mile marker 18.1 southbound, flying north.

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

No