

# 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](mailto: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 immature (wing molt and date suggest SY)
3. Parish: Terrebonne  
Specific Locality: ~170 miles south of Marsh Island, 27.014455°N, -91.747738° W.
4. Date(s) when observed:  
3/23/2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed:  
6:30 – 9:00 am.
6. Reporting observer and address:  
Paul Sweet  
2114 Elisha Ave.  
Zion, IL 60099  
paul.sweet@att.net
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):  
Janice Sweet
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):  
We were on the north side of the ship, so the morning sun was behind us. The bird kept flying in and out of the shade of the ship.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
Minox 10X42 binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s):  
At times, within 20 yards.
12. Duration of observation: We only had the bird in sight for ~1 min. at 6:30 am, but when it returned at 8:00, it spent an hour following the ship.

13. Habitat: Open ocean, ~5000 ft. deep

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

The bird spent the entire time taking passes down the side of the ship chasing flying fish, then returning to the bow.

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 similar in size to a Herring Gull, with a longer, very pointed and laterally compressed bill, bluish-gray in color, with extensive bare facial skin of the same color and a pale grayish iris. The wings were long and pointed, and the tail was longer than a gulls and wedge-shaped. The back, head, and upper breast were medium brown, as were the upper wings. The belly was paler brown, with a bit of mottling. The underwings were similar in color to the belly. The inner 3 primaries and associated greater primary coverts were newly molted, slightly shorter and truncate.

16. Voice: Silent

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The overall shape and flight style were enough to rule out anything except members of the Sulidae. Northern Gannet is noticeably larger, has white axillaries and white uppertail coverts in all plumages, and never shows the contrast between the breast and belly. Juvenile Masked and Blue-footed Boobies have white bellies and some white markings above. Juvenile Red-footed Booby probably comes the closest, but lacks the breast-belly contrast, has all-dark underwing coverts, and paler flight feathers and uppertail coverts above.

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



19. Previous experience with this species: I've observed Brown Boobies (mostly adults) on many occasions in Hawaii, although that was 30 years ago. I've observed Northern Gannets on a couple of occasions on the East Coast, and I've seen the other boobies in Hawaii and one Masked off of Texas.

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

a. at time of observation:

I checked the Birds of Belize and Birds of Costa Rica immediately after the first sighting, to refresh my memory on immature boobies.

b. after observation:

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 type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

Yes, the photos are diagnostic.

23. Date: 4/4/2015

Time: 9:00 am.

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 \_\_\_\_\_