

# 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):  
7 individuals, 5 in adult plumage, 2 in immature plumage.
3. Louisiana - Parish: St Tammany  
Specific Locality: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, mile marker 16.3  
Coordinates: 30.2003534, -90.1249767.
4. Date(s) when observed: 9/24/2016.
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 14:12.
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): None.
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): Sky partly cloudy, giving bright sunlight from slightly west of overhead.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): None.

11. Distance to bird(s): 25 to 40 feet.

12. Duration of observation: 19 seconds, timed on digital voice recorder.

13. Habitat: Concrete bridge above lake surface. I think the lake is about 20 to 25 feet deep at the area of the drawbridge, mile marker 16.0.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I was searching for the birds, which have been seen almost regularly in recent weeks, as I drove southward in the west lane of the Causeway. Speed was approximately 55 mph. The birds flew up from beneath the bridge - 6 came up from the open area between the 2 spans of the bridge, while the 7th emerged on the west side.

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*): Given the brevity of the encounter and the fact that I was driving alone and that the birds were flying, fine details of plumage could not be noted. I saw the undersides of the birds as they flew upwards, more or less facing me. The general shape of these large birds [about 30 inches in length, pointed at both ends and with long, pointed wings] allowed for quick identification to species. The adult birds were identified by their pure white underparts, sharply defined below their dark brown upper breasts and throats. The immature birds showed lighter brown lower breasts and bellies.

16. Voice: None heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Gannets are much larger and mostly white [in adult plumage]. Blue-footed and Masked Boobies are slightly larger and show different color patterns. Red-footed Boobies are slightly smaller and adults are mostly white on the upper breast and neck. I did not really consider any other Sulid species.

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). Additionally, I have recorded 31 previous observations of this species from the Causeway and 1 from the I-10 twin spans across the eastern end of Lake Pontchartrain. Wishing to refrain from

cluttering the 'pending' pages of the LBRC web site, I preserved each sighting in an eBird checklist. See below:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S22561465>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S24236143>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S24236281>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S24461885>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S24904360>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25107229>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25200056>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25281450>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25371628>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25448783>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S26320907>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S26535752>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S27606839>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S27828385>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S28652985>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S28991871>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29158586>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29304652>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29436651>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29657191>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29657191>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S30617849>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S30673015>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31116165>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31169706>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31172530>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31172765>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31285991>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31442760>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31536378>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31536378>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31778942>

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

None used. I relied on my previous experience.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

Notes were recorded contemporaneously using a Sony digital recorder - model ICD-BX140.

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

23. *Nancy L Newfield*

Date: 9/27/2016.

Time: 19:02.

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.