

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

Hi Mr. Conover,

I was encouraged to send you the details of a Brown booby sighting in south Lake Charles from friends who are active birders who say this bird is unusual in our area. I first saw this bird on the deck of our tugboat after having tied up at the dock about an hour previous. We all agreed it must be a seabird, but one we never saw before. At first I thought it must have flown down from one of the ships we docked earlier that morning, but not seeing it on deck on my first round immediately after tying up, now I'm not so sure. It was a friendly bird and let us walk right up to it. We set it on the dock and after awhile, it took to the air. The engineer saw it early the next morning too, perched on the bollard on the dock. If you need additional info, my personal email is -----@----- (I'm emailing you from the boat computer now). Thank you.

Denis Kay

Captain

Tug *Aura*

1. English and Scientific names: **Brown booby, *Sula leucogaster***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **1, sex and age unknown**
3. Parish: **Calcasieu**
Specific Locality: **Lake Charles Industrial Canal: 30.1150 North, 93.2917 West**
4. Date(s) when observed: **11-08-2016 and 11-09-2016**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **1:30pm on 11-08 and 5:00am on 11-09**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Denis Kay 4317 Sarver St. Lake Charles, LA 70605**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Lester Jones, Ken Shearman, John Maxey, Jordan Abshire**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **John Maxey**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Partly sunny with high clouds, lots of light, observed bird from all sides**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Mark 1 eyeball**

11. Distance to bird(s): 3 feet

12. Duration of observation: 1.5 hours

13. Habitat: Coastal river / waterway in industrial area near marsh and Calcasieu Lake

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting, walking, resting, awkward long takeoff, flying, diving in water. Bird was first observed on the deck of our tugboat at the dock. It let us walk right up to it and kept looking up like it wanted to fly but couldn't. We eventually picked it up and put it on the dock and after perching on our mooring line for a while, it took off running and flapping and took to the air. Came back around in flight several times right over our heads and dove into the water.

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*): Bigger than a large duck and smaller than a goose. Very yellow feet and off-white bill that was more yellow close to the face.

16. Voice: It never made a sound.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Searched internet and looked at pictures of different species of boobies.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?) Took photos, not attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Never saw this species before.

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

a. at time of observation: compared to photos on internet

b. after observation: sent photo we took to birding friend (did not tell her our tentative identification) who confirmed ID

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
X	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	11-08-2016
X	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 11-10-2016

Time: 9:00pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

 YES

If yes, may we include your name with the report? YES

