

# 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):  
2 in Adult Plumage
3. Parish: Plaquemines  
Specific Locality: @125 mile offshore straight south of the mouth of the Mississippi River
4. Date(s) when observed: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 5pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Zeke Watkins, 721 Northstar Dr. Hailey, ID 83333
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): Birds were down sun, Sun behind me when looking at the birds. Skies mostly cloudy. Birds were also in the shade created by the ship.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Brunton Epoch binoculars 10.5x43 in great condition clean lenses. Photos taken with iPhone 6 through said binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s): from 20 yards out to 200 yards
12. Duration of observation: about 20 minutes
13. Habitat: Open Pelagic Ocean, Calm seas
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Viewed from deck 3 observation deck outside of the Carnival cruise ship Triumph. Birds flew in from the Southeast at a level of about 10 meters above the water, then paralleled the ship at that height flying from the stern to the bow along the starboard (Right) side. Then would

circle out away from the ship and fly back to the stern to repeat this process. They were watching for Flying fish that would fly to escape the ship's wake, then drop down right behind the fish to pursue the fish along the top of the water. I did not see any successful chases. Eventually the birds flew off back to the east.

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*): Was able to get excellent views from all angles of the birds. I recognized them immediately as Brown Booby. Overall brown coloration on the back and head and front of the neck ending sharply at the top of the breast. white underneath down to the feet and underwings from the axillaries to the second wing joint. Brown primaries. Pale face and bill in classic booby taper, blue eyes. Pale feet.

16. Voice: no vocalizations heard.

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

Juvenile Masked booby ruled out by lack of pale neck and yellow bill. No white collar around the base of the neck or white rump.

Juvenile Blue Footed Booby ruled out by pale bill and feet instead of the dark bill and feet of the BFBO. Also no pale uppertail.

Juv. Red-footed Booby ruled out by Pale bill and feet instead of the dark bill and reddish feet expected on a RFBO, also by the solid white underbelly and white underwing coverts.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes photographs obtained by hand-holding my iPhone 6 up to my Brunton Epoch 10.5x43 binoculars. Photos are attached and taken by me. Photographs also posted on eBird. <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31821284>

19. Previous experience with this species: Observed this species multiple times off the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: "big" Sibley Guide to Birds of North America 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

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

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

Yes completely positive, I have seen this species many times in Hawaii.

23. Date: October 1, 2016  
Time: 11:30 am





