

# 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): [4, at least 2 adults \(maybe 3\) and 1 subadult](#)
3. Parish: [Plaquemines](#)  
Specific Locality: [Head of Passes](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [2 September 2017](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [7:45 am](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA, 70508](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Van Remsen, probably others – there were about 20 birders on the boat, but not everyone was able to see the birds.](#)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): [none known](#)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Looking basically NNW, with the sun rising to the east into clear skies, so good viewing conditions.](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10x42 Swarovski EL binoculars, good condition](#)

11. Distance to bird(s): 1,000+ meters, as measured later in Google Earth

12. Duration of observation: About 20 seconds or so.

13. Habitat: Coastal wetlands typical of banks of lower MS River – mixed riparian (willow) patches with expansive emergent marsh on either side. River is about 1 mile wide here and birds were over the west levee, headed roughly north.

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

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*): I was scanning the horizon with binoculars when I hit these four birds. It took a couple of seconds to register, but then realized they were Boobies. Size-wise, they were (very) roughly Brown Pelican sized, and that's what I was initially confused about as I was wrapping my head around what I was looking – the shape and style immediately struck me as different, and then I saw the bright white contrasting belly against the brown chest in a straight and distinct line in a couple of the birds. I called out "Brown Boobies" at that point hoping others would get on the birds, too. My impression was that the lead bird at one point may have been the immature - with messy brown/whitish underparts. At least two of the others were adults with distinct bright white bellies contrasting sharply against the dark brown chest and head, with the break seemingly below the wings. The wings were often somewhat bowed as they flapped lazily, so the underparts weren't visible for very long. I didn't get a sense of the color of the bill, but the bills were long, robust, and straight, and were angled ever so slightly downward. As the boat continued SSE to South Pass, the birds disappeared behind vegetation.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Juvenile Brown Pelican with grubby white underparts contrasting again brown less dramatically and not so much in a straight line (more rounded across the breast). Bill shape completely different, along with flight style, so it's really only a superficial comparison. The adult birds were clearly not other kinds of Sulids (Red-footed Booby, Masked Booby, immature Northern Gannet, etc.), so by extension the immature bird was most likely a Brown Booby.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No, and I don't think anyone got photos.

19. Previous experience with this species: [Seen adults here and there in Louisiana over last couple years, plus more extensive experience in Costa Rica with various age classes in 2005 and more recently \(March 2016\) picking them out among Brown Pelicans while scanning offshore in Uvita, Costa Rica.](#)

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

a. at time of observation: [none](#)

b. after observation: [Sibley Guide to North American Birds](#)

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	3 September 2017: <a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S38984502">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S38984502</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: [Yes](#)

23. Date: [5 November 2017](#)

Time: [4:30 pm](#)

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](#)