

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 2, sex unknown, One adult and one bird that appeared to be transitioning from juvenile plumage into adult plumage.
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality: Gulf of Mexico, open ocean. Exact location unknown but north of 25.777590, -89.869890
4. Date(s) when observed: 22 December 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: On and off from 3:45 to 4:33 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Mark A. Greene, 194 Mt. Orange Road, Trenton, TN 38382
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): My son, Jacob Greene, also viewed the birds in my scope.
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): Late afternoon sun. Birds were observed both in the sun and in the shade of the ship. Observations were made from the left side of the ship as we traveled north.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 Classic binoculars and Zeiss Victory 85mm Diascope with 20-60x eyepiece.

11. Distance to bird(s): 30 to 150 yards.

12. Duration of observation: Off and on for nearly an hour. Some of the time during that time span the birds were presumably feeding to the west of the ship and out of my sight as we headed north.

13. Habitat: Open ocean

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I was watching for seabirds from the balcony deck of our room aboard the Carnival Triumph cruise ship. I spotted these birds with my binoculars and then got my scope on the birds. They fed around the ship for close to an hour, circling the ship and diving into the water. Dives were from a low flight with low angle dives into the waves.

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*): Two boobies with dark brown plumage and a hooded appearance, a white belly with the white extending onto the underwings coverts. One bird had a clean white breast and underwings whereas the other bird was dusky white underneath (but not as dark overall as a juvenile bird) but the hooded appearance and paler underwing were still notable. Bills of both birds were pale.

16. Voice: None detected

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Differentiated from Northern Gannet by combination of the brown plumage with white underparts and from juvenile Masked Booby by dark brown necks with a clean line separated the brown neck from the white lower breast and belly.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, I was able to get a couple of photos as the birds actively fed and dove around the ship. One of both birds is attached at the bottom of this form.

19. Previous experience with this species: None, but I have studied these birds in books extensively, expecting to see one in Tennessee due to this species propensity to occur inland. This was also a species that I had studied as a possible seabird that I might see in the Gulf on this trip.

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

a. at time of observation: None, I stayed on the birds and made audio notes on my phone during the observations, only referencing the field guides after the birds had disappeared.

b. after observation: I had the Sibley Guide and Peter Harrison's Seabirds on the ship with me.

21. This description is written from: I used the voice record on my phone to verbally record the plumage details, etc. and then made written notes from those audio recordings.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audio notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Written notes made after the observation.	At what date?	12/22/2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 12/28/2017

Time: 11:50 am

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

