

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Cory's Shearwater*, *Calonectris diomedea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): One, prob. nominate ssp. (Scopoli's Shearwater); molting primaries, w/ what looks like 5-6 old primaries present. This bird appears to be different from the individual seen at 1229 bird (ca. 2.5 mi NNE), which appears to have fewer (4?) old primaries and a different distribution of pale spots in the upperwing coverts.

See also Hal Mitchell's photos, which show better details (esp. of primaries), at: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S38985020>

3. Locality: Parish: Gulf of Mexico (nearest parish = Plaquemines)
Specific Locality: 28.5384, -88.8338 (ca. 37 mi SE of Miss. River South Pass jetty)
4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1334 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Paul Conover, John Dillon, Danny Dobbs, Marty Guidry, Erik Johnson, Hal Mitchell, David Muth, Larry Raymond, Van Remsen (these are simply the people I recall nearby), et al.
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): Bright, sunny, clear sky

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)

11. Distance to bird(s): not close (300+ m?)

12. Duration of observation: about 30 sec (photo timestamps cover 24 sec)

13. Habitat: pelagic, blue water near sargassum line

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): This was a fly-by obs only, starboard to port, and away

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): Large shearwater w/ pale gray nape, back, and tail; upper wing variable shades of gray and brown depending on wear (upper wing coverts, secondaries, and old primaries dark grayish-brown, fresh primaries paler gray); gray head, darker around eye, fading to white throat; white breast, belly, and underwing coverts; long, yellowish bill w/ black nail. White tongues appear to extend down deep into undersides of outer primaries, suggesting nominate ssp. ("Scopoli's")--see also photos by Hal Mitchell (eBird link provided above).

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Great Shearwater the only other large shearwater expected in the GOM, readily distinguished by its distinct dark cap well demarcated from mostly white neck, gray collar, all-black bill, and variable black feathering in underwing coverts. Audubon's Shearwater, several of which were seen in the vicinity, obviously smaller, contrastingly colored blackish above and white below, and with shorter, rounder wings, and small all-dark gray bills.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: Limited; good experience with numerous Cory's and Great shearwaters on trip to same general area in Sep 2016

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: **None**

21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); ____ notes made after the observation (date: ____); ____ memory, photos taken during observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes**

23. Date: 16 Sep 2017 Time: 0900 CDT

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



Timestamp 1334



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