

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: Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1, sex and age unknown.
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality: Gulf of Mexico—open sea but somewhere north of 25.777590, -89.869890
4. Date(s) when observed: 22 December 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 4:05-4:10 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Mark A. Greene, 194 Mt. Orange Road, Trenton, TN 383832
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): Bird was in full sunlight in the late afternoon sun. Our deck was on the east side of the ship as it headed north and the bird flew generally to the east.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 Classic binoculars and Zeiss Victory 85mm Diascope with 20-60x eyepiece.
11. Distance to bird(s): 75 yards to probably close to ¼ mile.

12. Duration of observation: More than 5 minutes

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 the Carnival Triumph cruise ship. I spotted the bird with my binoculars and then got my scope on the bird. Bird was in flight the entire time that I was watching it. The bird flew across low to the water near the front of the ship then flew away perpendicular to the ship but made a couple of banking turns while going away. Flight was strong and powerful with slow wingbeats and alternated the flight regularly with long glides with wings bowed downward. This was distinctive and easy to see even as the bird was a great distance away while viewing at powers up to 60x in my scope.

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*): This bird was near the same size as a Pomarine Jaeger that I saw just a couple of minutes after this bird disappeared. I noted a large, heavy bodied shearwater with broad, blunt-tipped wings. The upperparts were a sandy brown and the underparts were mostly white with dark front and rear edges and dark tips. I never saw the underside of the tail. Head, nape, and sides of the neck were near same color as the back and other upperparts. Bill was stout and yellowish in color.

16. Voice: None detected

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Distinguished from other, similar species (such as the Great Shearwater) mainly by its large, stout build, it's more uniformly pale underparts and the more uniformly colored head.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): As the bird was flying steadily away I chose to stay on the bird in my scope rather than to try to find the bird again and to attempt a photo, so no photos were obtained.

19. Previous experience with this species: None, but I had been studying the possible seabirds that I might see for several weeks prior to this trip, both in books and by watching video online (YouTube, etc.). This was one of the species that I had studied.

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: 12/28/17

Time: 9:30 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