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Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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:** Red-naped Sapsucker / Sphyrapicus nuchalis
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):** 1 adult male
3. **Locality:** LOUISIANA: LAFAYETTE
(parish)
Acadiana Park
(specific locality)
4. **Date(s) when observed:** Feb 22 - Mar 5, 1994
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** Throughout the day on dates listed above.
6. **Reporting observer and address:** P. CONOVER
919 W Pinhook
Lafayette, LA 70506
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):**
many other observers; Dave Patton and Bill Fontenot also spent a good while studying the bird.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):**
9. **Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):** I painstakingly sought to view and film bird from every angle in the light, and under different light conditions. Full sun to clouds.
10. **Optical equipment (type, power, condition):** Qvestar 50x, Kowa 20-60x, Nikon 30x, Zeiss 10x40s + Camcorder hooked to Kowa scope.
11. **Distance to bird(s):** as close as 20 feet, repeatedly.
12. **Duration of observation:** many hours each date of listed above.
13. **Habitat:** Bottomland hardwood dominated by large live oak, Hackberry, Hickory with dense understory of Japanese honeysuckle and privet ligustrum.

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

Typical sapsucker behaviour; aside from drilling and feeding from twigs also gorged on blackberries, figs, burn drooper and insect galls.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possibly: 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):

Typical sapsucker size, shape. Differed from yellow-bellied in that the red of the chin, throat and upper breast spilled over bordering black feathers - most noticeably at juncture of throat & breast sides, but also in form of red flecks on black of malar area and on black of lower border of breast patch. Video clearly shows thick black malar stripe and breast stripe separated by red feathers, as is stated for Red-naped. Back pattern also consistent w/ what is stated in guides for red-naped - two discrete white lines running down scapular region (formed by black & white barred? or fringed? scapular feathers). Red of nape as rich in color as that of crown, throat, breast - and perhaps a different tone.

16. Voice: as red than that of a yellow-bellied.

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

yellow-bellied Sapsucker seemingly eliminated by throat pattern & back pattern differences, and by intensity of red of nape.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

about 4 hours of videotape, some very close up.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen red-napes of all ages/sexes out west, but have noticed quite a bit of variation. Also I am aware of yellowbellied w/ red napes, probably including the "Red-naped" as the Lafayette C. 92.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: ___ notes made during the observation (___ notes attached?); ___ notes made after the observation (date: ___);
 memory. video

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Given the debate over specific/subspecific status of sapsuckers, and possible intergradations,

23. Signature of reporter: _____

(date) (time)

October 1991

It seems difficult to say w/ certainty, but I would say that, yes, it is a member of One Rock Mountain population of sapsucker. If it is not, then available ID criteria are meaningless.