

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: Crested Caracara
Polyborus plancus
- 2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 adult
- 3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Cameron
(parish)
menhaden plant near Cameron Ferry
(specific locality)
- 4. Date(s) when observed: 22 July, 1995
- 5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:20
- 6. Reporting observer and address: Matthew Pontiff
742 Bill Churchman Loop
DeRidder, LA 70634
- 7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Gary Pontiff
- 8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Gary Pontiff
- 9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): bird made circle in open, bright light
- 10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Tasco 7x35, Bushnell 7x35
- 11. Distance to bird(s):
50 Ft.
- 12. Duration of observation:
1 min.
- 13. Habitat:
grassland with scattered trees & scrubs

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
bird seen taking off from tree, & then flying in a complete circle around us
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): bill was huge, very noticeable from the 50 ft. that separated us & the bird. white wing patches on end of wings like those of a Black vulture, white head & neck, with a little black on the part of the neck closest to the breast, tail white with a little black near the end. solid black stripe on end of tail. After white wing patches, all other flight feathers black.
16. Voice: none heard
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
dark phase Rough-legged Hawk has a dark head, smaller bill.
"Harlan's" Hawk doesn't have black band on tail, white head, & black secondaries
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No
19. Previous experience with this species: Gary Pontiff has seen & studied them before
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
a. at time of observation: none
b. after observation: N.B. Birds of N.A., Peterson East, LA Birds- Lowrey
21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation (notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date: 7/22); _____ memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes.
23. Signature of reporter: Matthew Pontiff 22 July, 1995 4:45 p.m.
(date) (time)