

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: *Black Rail*
Laterallus jamaicensis
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 2 adults (possibly only 1 bird seen twice)
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Natchitoches
(parish)
3 miles south of the Buhatan exit of I-49 + 3/8 mile west
(specific locality) of the interstate.
4. Date(s) when observed: October 7, 1995
5. Time(s) of day when observed: At approximately 12:30 p.m. - then
again at about 1:40 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address:
Roger J. Breedlove
152 Alice Dr.
Pinaville, La. 71360
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Charlie Lyon - although we exclaimed the bird's
identity @ the same time -
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): In full sunlight on both sightings
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): None
11. Distance to bird(s): 12 ft @ nearest approach out to about
50 ft.
12. Duration of observation:
3-4 seconds each observation
13. Habitat: Rice field

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

Flying - fleeing from the combine upon which
charlie and I rode

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):

1st observation: Tiny, all dark rail w/ rounded wings, flying 3-4 ft. off the ground. Upper mantle appeared lighter than the rest of the body - although I could not give an exact color. Back appeared spotted.

2nd observation: Tiny, all dark rail - appeared black above + below, flew out, then banked left - 40-50 ft. flight - spotted above - no notice of upper mantle or nape on this bird, although overall view was better than on 1st observation. Broad rounded wings - low, rail flight. This bird flushed within 100 ft. of where the 1st bird had touched down.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Gora - much, much larger w/ streaking - lighter on breast + face. Virginia - much, much larger w/ streaking, lighter on breast + face, chestnut on upper capal area. Yellow rail - larger + lighter w/ white secondary feathers.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No

19. Previous experience with this species:

Heard only @ Anahuac - never seen previously

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

a. at time of observation: None, as always, rails were well studied prior to the outing. The bird's identity was quite obvious @ the sighting. However, I did check all of my materials that evening to insure that neither Gora nor Virginia ever come

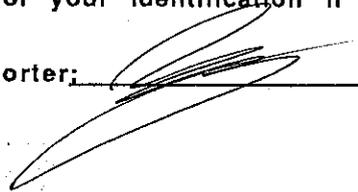
b. after observation:

neither Gora nor Virginia ever come

21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation 1/4 size.
(notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date:);
 memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter:



10-9-95 12:00 noon
(date) (time)

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1. English and Scientific names: Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one or two individuals - 2 sightings approximately 50 yards apart -
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Natchitoches
rice fields just southwest of I-49 and Hwy 485 (Allen to Powhatan) intersection
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: October 7, 1995
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1st sighting around 12:30 pm
2nd sighting around 1:30 pm
6. Reporting observer and address:
Charles E. Lyon
8617 E. Wilderness Way
Shreveport, LA 71106
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Roger Bredlove
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Roger Bredlove
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): For both sightings the combine which we were riding was moving north and the bird each time flew to our left which was west. It was a sunny day
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): and the sun was overhead.
None. We had binoculars but were on a moving combine and observed the bird on
11. Distance to bird(s): birds flush & then go back into the rice
Initially about 15 feet from the bird for each sighting -
12. Duration of observation:
From 3 to 5 seconds each observation.
13. Habitat:
Rice fields

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

We were riding on a rice combine when the bird (or birds) flushed and then flew off to the left of the combine.

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):

1st Sighting: A very small dark rail flew low over the rice tops to the left of the observer, ^{who were} on a moving combine. The bird had rounded blackish wings with noticeable spotting (speckling) that was whitish (like white dots). I noted the back and the back appeared the same color as the wing and also had spotting. The bird appeared essentially tailless as it angled away to the left and then retreated back into cover at the edge of a dyke. The head appeared uniformly dark and the same color as the rest of the body.

2nd Sighting: This occurred approximately 50 yards directly west of the first sighting and this may represent the same individual. This was a much better look for me. In this case the bird banked to our left and I could see the ventral surface as well as the dorsal surface. For some reason I got a better light angle on this bird and I definitely noted a contrasting brown rump that to me appeared to extend into the mantle as well. The rest of the bird was black. The head, throat, belly and flanks all appeared black. I did not note the white barring of the flanks depicted in field guides and I don't think can be observed in a moving 6 inch bird. I also noted distinctive whitish speckling on the wings and back again. This bird had rounded wings, was definitely a rail & not a sparrow, was black, and was male in October when there are no longer any black rail chicks of other species present. Sora is much larger and is overall lighter with a more pronounced tail that tends to be cocked & with whitish under tail coverts. Yellow Rail is slightly larger, but with noticeable white wing patches. This bird or these birds which were that country.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): This sighting was very male in October when there are no longer any black rail chicks of other species present. Sora is much larger and is overall lighter with a more pronounced tail that tends to be cocked & with whitish under tail coverts. Yellow Rail is slightly larger, but with noticeable white wing patches. This bird or these birds which were that country.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None. Additionally for the second sighting a Sora Rail flushed approximately 1 second after the Black Rail & flew in front of a juvenile Yellow Rail. *

19. Previous experience with this species: the Black Rail allowing direct size comparison. None with Black Rail, I have a great deal of experience with all other ABA area rail species, including Yellow Rail.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: National Geographic Society Birds of North America
Peterson Eastern Birds

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: Chad E. Lyman 10-11-95 12 midnight
(date) (time)

October 1991

* I saw numerous individuals of 4 other rail species during my rice combine count period of Oct 1 to 11, 1995. I also noted juvenile plumage patterns of all other species and noted that a juvenile Yellow Rail can appear quite dark with the exception of the white wing patches. I even had a Sora flush and fly in front of the Black Rail while the Black Rail was still in the air. I feel 100% certain that this was a Black Rail. I am not certain if we had 1 or 2 individuals. (2nd observation)

Charles Lyon

Road sighting from

I-49 borrow pit
rice fields

Oct 1-11, 1995

Natchitoches Parish



Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warbler by L.A. Fuentes

1995

Oct	Sora	Virginia	King	Yellow	Black
Oct 1	43	17		8	
Oct 2	136	10	1		
Oct 7	115	4	3	5	1.5 (1 or 2)
Oct 8 (A)	60	44	2		
Oct 8 (B)	76	8	1		
Oct 11	49	15	1	1	
Total	479	98	8	14	1.5 (1 or 2)

Oct 1: CL, Roger Breedlove

Oct 2: CL, Jeff Trabon, Rosemary Siedler

Oct 7: CL, Roger Breedlove, Horace Jeter

Oct 8 (A) CL, Horace Jeter, Hubert Hervey

Oct 8 (B) Roger Breedlove, Kermit Cummings

Oct 11: CL, Bill Wood

