

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Rare Bird 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 ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for 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*  
*Caracara cheriway*
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 2 individuals, adult plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Calcasieu  
Fabacher Rd.  
(parish)  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 24 April 1998
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 0825
6. Reporting observer and address: Allan Strong  
37 Gove Court  
Burlington, VT 05401
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Matt Johnson, Kinsley Whittem James Lenhard, Eric Holho
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): Looking west at birds, sun rising in east, No clouds
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
Kowa spotting scope (tsn 4) one w/ fixed 20x lense & one w/a zoom
11. Distance to bird(s):  
~120 m
12. Duration of observation:  
~5 min

13. Habitat: Birds sitting on powerline poles, early successional brushy habitat below them & to the north, open ricefields to the south
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on 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. Attach additional pages as necessary):

Matt Johnson spotted and identified the birds. We got excellent looks at them through spotting scopes. Both birds showed white faces, ~~breast~~ throats and upper breasts grading into a spotted barred mid-breast and charcoal belly. They had a black cap which extended into a shaggy crest on one bird of which we had a side-profile. The wings were dark and on one bird facing us, we could observe white bases to the undersides of the rectrices and a dark sub-terminal band on the tail. The pinkish base of the bill & blue tip could be seen through the Kowa at ~40x. Both birds appeared long-legged. They were "roughly" the size of a Black Vulture, but not as bulky.

16. Voice: None heard.

17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): Vultures - no white in head. Red-tailed Hawk - light belly (in light phase) & dark throat & upper breast in dark morphs. Actually, the most similar hawk would be a rough-legged, which should not have the pinkish base of the bill or black crest.

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

~~Some~~ None

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen this bird approximately 10 times in FL, TX, Venezuela & Mexico. Matt Johnson has a great deal of experience with them & published a paper on communal roosting behavior in Guatemala.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation:

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

22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)? Yes

23. Signature of reporter: Allan Strong 5 May 98  
(date)