

## Louisiana Ornithological Society

## Bird Records Committee

## Report Form

**Species:** Crested Caracara, *Caracara cheriway*

**Number:** 1

**Locality:** Goose Island, Cameron Parish, Lacassine-Thornwell CBC

**Date:** December 16, 2002

**Time:** approx. 5:00 p.m.

**Reporter:** David P. Muth,  
1617 Charlton Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

**With Reporter:** B. Mac Myers, Gay Gomez

**Other Observers:** none

**Light:** ok; near sunset

**Optics:** Zeiss DIALYT 10x40, Bushnell Spacemaster Spotting Scope 25x

**Distance:** 200 yards?

**Duration:** 5 minutes

**Habitat:** A stand of willows on the edge of an impounded former rice field and surrounded by drier open fields

**Behavior:** A single individual, in an evening roost with herons and egrets (and a Golden Eagle).

**Description:**

Large raptor with long legs, a long neck, and long tail; dark back and wings; dark belly, pale upper breast, white throat, dark cap.

The bird was perched facing us, clearly showing the distinctive shape and under-parts pattern.

**Voice:** not heard

**Similar Species:** none, really

**Photos/Videos/Recordings:** no

**Previous Experience:** a few in Texas, a few previously in Louisiana

**Aids:** none at the time

**Circumstances of Description:**

Written from memory.

**Confidence Level:** I am certain of the identification.

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Muth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

**David P. Muth**

**Date:** April 5, 2003

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM

1. Northern (Crested) Caracara *Caracara cheriway*
2. Number: one, age/sex unknown
3. Locality: Louisiana; Cameron Parish; Goose Island area of Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC, not far east of the hunting lodge which is on Goose Island Rd.
4. Date: 16 December 2002
5. Time: just before sunset--1700 est??
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers, III; 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt.; New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observers: David P. Muth, Gay Gomez
8. Independent observers: none
9. Light conditions: very good, looking east with a very low sun behind us
10. Optics: 10 x42 Eagle, excellent; 22x60 Bushnell very good
11. Distance: hard to judge, probably close to 0.5 mile, perhaps slightly less
12. Duration: several minutes, perhaps as many as ten or more; we were looking at this bird and the Golden Eagle at the same time.
13. Habitat: a tree line at the edge of a large open grassy/shrubby area with water
14. Behavior: perched in a snag, flying
15. Description: We stopped to look at a distant eagle, and Gay exclaimed, "Caracara!" We were relieved to see that she was looking at the same tree line but to the right of the eagle. A very large raptor, mostly blackish, with whitish neck, cheeks and throat with patch of red facial skin between eye and beak; dark crown contrasting with white face. In flight, long tail mostly whitish with dark terminal band and with bold white patches in outer primaries; long head/neck extension.
16. Voice: silent
17. Similar species: none in North America

18. Photographs: none

19. Previous experience: several in LA, others in TX

20. Aids: none

21. Description from very brief notes in field and memory

22. Yes, I am positive of the identification

23. Signature: *B. Mac. Meyer III*

24. Date and time: 24 March 03, 1625 cst