

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 information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach photocopy of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include complete series of 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. (If you use this form as a computer template; please submit on archival quality = 100% cotton paper.)

1. English and Scientific names: Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage: One adult.
3. Locality: Jefferson Davis Par.; just E Thornwell at Hwys. 380 and 382
4. Date(s) when observed: 25 October 2002
5. Time(s) of day when observed: approx. 11:30 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): _____
9. Light conditions: overcast, but good.
10. Optical equipment: both Leica 10 X 42 binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s): initially it was off in the distance, but approached and almost flew directly overhead observers
- 12.) Duration of observation: maybe 1-2 minutes from the most distant point, as it approached, flew overhead and until it disappeared out of sight
- 13.) Habitat: rice and other agricultural fields
- 14.) Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation: The bird was flying.
- 15.) Description: DLD first spotted the bird while we were driving. She knew it was going to be something interesting and told SWC to pull over. We both jumped out of the car as the bird approached. It flew nearly directly overhead, and disappeared off in the distance. No other raptor similar to a caracara in shape or coloration. The bird was an adult; it's plumage was basically black and white. It was more or less the size of a Red-tailed Hawk,

perhaps a little smaller with a very different shape; the wings longer and more proportionately rounded compared to a *Buteo*. The flight was more floppy. The white patches at the base of the primaries were very conspicuous and distinctive—the rest of the underwing was generally black. The crown, back, and belly were also black. The chest was banded black and white. The tail was mostly white, banded with black, and with a broad, prominent black distal tail band. The orange-red facial skin was conspicuous at close range, and was framed by the black crown and white neck.

16.) Voice: not heard

17.) Similar species and how they were eliminated: No similar species.

18.) Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No. The bird got past us too quickly and we were not prepared. It appeared to be unchasable--with regards to relocating it at another site.

19.) Previous experience with this species: Have now seen this species several times in LA; several times elsewhere, but primarily in Texas. We are absolutely comfortable with identification of this species.

21.) Identification aids:

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: None.

22.) This description is written from: X notes made during the observation; _____ notes made (immediately) after the observation (date: _____); or _____ memory. Please attach copy of field notes.

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

24.) Signature of reporter: Donnal DeBman

Signature of reporter: Steven W. Cardiff 12/19/02
(date) (time)