

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 plancus
(Heriway [Sibley])
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 adult
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: CAMERON
(parish)
ILLINOIS PLANT RD. LEADING TO LACASSINE POOL
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 14 DECEMBER 2003
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ~ 3:00 & 4:00 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN
15913 MALVERN HILL
BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
MARTY GUIDRY
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
NONE
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): BIRD ON OR FLYING OVER ROAD, SUN TO WEST
EXCELLENT LIGHT FOR ID
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10X40 ZEISS
11. Distance to bird(s): ~ 20 YDS. BOTH TIMES
12. Duration of observation: ~ 1 MINUTE EACH TIME

13. Habitat: ROADSIDE WITH MARSH AND FIELDS ON SIDES OF ROAD

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):
BIRD LOOKED LONG & SLIM COMPARED TO VULTURES, SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER. BIRDS FLUSHED AS WE DROVE UP TO THEM. OUR BIRD HAD LONG BLACK WINGS WITH WHITISH PATCHES AT ENDS OF PRIMARIES. BIRD FLEW AROUND, HAD SLIGHT CROOK IN WINGS WHEN FLYING. DARK CROWN, WHITE FACE AND THROAT - REST OF UNDERPARTS DARK - TAIL WHITISH WITH DARK TERMINAL BAND
THE SECOND TIME WE SAW IT THE BIRD WAS AT THE ROAD KILL AGAIN, ONLY 1 VULTURE PRESENT. IT FLEW OFF WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE INTESTINE OF DEAD ANIMAL - BIRD GIVES A LONG-HEADED, LONG-TAILED LOOK IN FLIGHT

16. Voice: NOT HEARD

17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?):
NONE IN CONTINENTAL U.S.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
NONE

19. Previous experience with this species:
SEEN MANY TIMES IN TX, LA & AZ

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
a. at time of observation: NONE
b. after observation: SIBLEY

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: Joseph P. Kleiman 11/21/03
(date)

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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 - one clear adult; one of indeterminate age
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Jefferson Davis
Goose Island Road $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. South of Hwy 14
(parish)
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: December 14, 2003
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:00 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Philly Walker
4515 S. Breuer St.
New Orleans, LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): Don Purrington
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Mac Myers and David Muth
Saw two birds of this species nearby on the same day.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Light fair to good. Birds ~~seen~~ flying \perp to road on which our vehicle was parked. S. of observers.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 binoculars.
11. Distance to bird(s): ~ 150 yds.
12. Duration of observation: 2-3 minutes.

13. Habitat: Flying over fallow fields and trees.

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

Flying.

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):

Two large dark (blackish) raptors with whitish head and tail and white (not just pale) outer primaries. Both observers immediately recognized the birds as Caracaras. Distinctive Caracara shape. The birds did not soar, but fly directly and purposefully from east to west.

Seen well, Crested Caracara is unlikely to be misidentified. The pale outer primaries of a Black Vulture seen fleetingly might initially cause a

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): misidentified Vulture, but these birds were Caracaras, as indicated by leg band

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

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen many times in TX and LA

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Sibley

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: Philip Wallace 12/17/03
(date)

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Northern (Crested) Caracara *Caracara cheriway*
 2. Two, one adult and one younger bird, possibly first year
 3. Locality; Cameron Parish, LA; Goose Island, s. of Hwy 14 west of Lake Arthur
 4. Date: 14 December 2003; Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC
 5. Time: not recorded, afternoon, maybe around 1400cst
 6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III; 5660 Ada Pl.-rear apt., New Orleans, LA 70124
 7. Accompanying observer: David Muth
 8. Other observers: uncertain, Dan Purrington and Philip Wallace reported two caracaras not far away. On the count, I considered these reports as referring to the same individuals.
 9. Light: very good
 10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle, excellent; 22x60 Bushnell, very good
 11. Distance: a couple of hundred yards, but we did walk closer
 12. Duration: not recorded, 5-10 minutes?
 13. Habitat; fallow fields edged by a line of trees
 14. Behavior; mostly walking around on the ground, flew into trees.
 15. Description: Large dark birds with dark crown; dark back, lower breast and belly; pale face, neck and throat, pale vent/undertail coverts' reddish facial skin forward of the eye; bill blue-gray. On one bird, the dark areas appeared black, and the light areas appeared white. On the other bird, the dark areas were dark brown, and the light areas were buffy.
 16. voice: not heard
 17. Similar species; none in the U.S.
 18. Photographs: I am enclosing two shot through my scope; Muth got some better ones
 19. Previous experience: several in LA, more in TX
 20. Aids: don't recall
 21. Description made from memory
 22. Yes, I am positive of the identification
 23. Signature: *B. Mac. Myers III*
- Date: 1 March 2004; time 1347 cst

