

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): minimum of 7, ages and sexes unknown
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: East of Holly Beach, between LA-82 and beach
4. Date(s) when observed:
12 Dec 2017 – 2 birds
2 Mar 2018 – 7 birds
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
12 Dec 2017: 7:20am and 7:44am, separated by ~400+ meters
2 Mar 2018: all between 6:27am and 7:24am
6. Reporting observer and address: Justin Lehman, Baton Rouge, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none known
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none known
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Mostly sunny skies. Wind Beaufort scale 2 on 12 Dec and Beaufort scale 4 on 2 Mar.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): N/A (all heard only)

11. Distance to bird(s): ranging from <10 m to 50-100 m.

12. Duration of observation: a few seconds or minutes for each bird

13. Habitat: Coastal high salty marsh dominated by *Spartinae spartinae*, *Borrichia frutescens*, and scattered *Baccharis*

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

Detected during Audubon Louisiana point counts, funded by LDWF and USFWS. Five point counts at this site, each separated by at least 400 m, ensuring independence between survey points. All birds heard calling/singing.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

12 Dec 2017

#1 - BLRA was ~6m away and started doing growl call. Growled a couple times in response to playback. Possibly a second one but I think was just the one moving. Got recording of growl.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8potnykilr3bicm/HOB002%20BLRA.wav?dl=0>

#2 - BLRA growled a couple of times during BLRA playback. Was ~5m away from me. Couldn't get recording of growl.

2 Mar 2018

#1 & #2 - Black Rail responded to playback around minute 4. Sang kikiidrr from ~25m away. Heard second further back 35-40m singing kikiidrr as well. Got recording, they sang for 3-4 minutes.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ggk2u7yywh2dpa9/HOB003%20BLRA%20I.wav?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6jannsf1c2m1xt/HOB003%20BLRA%20II.wav?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4thvtbxqmy4zo1q/HOB003%20BLRA%20III.wav?dl=0>

#3 & #4 & #5 - Heard Black Rail singing (kikiidrr) as I was arriving to point. Got to point and this BLRA was singing S ~25m away, while 2 more were singing (30 and 50m). South BLRA got closer as I did playback. Got recording.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hnkjav62x3wmjnz/HOB004%20BLRA%20I.wav?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pkrwoxd10u3b934/HOB004%20BLRA%20II.wav?dl=0>

#6 & 7 - Heard faint kikiidrr during BLRA playback but couldn't get direction/distance. During CLRA playback 2 Black Rails (E and W, both 60-75m away sang kikiidrr briefly. No recording.

16. Voice: see above

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): at least 4 different Northern Mockingbirds have been heard by Justin mimicking Black Rail “kikidrr” but have a faster cadence and slightly different pitch than Black Rails

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Several heard-only detections over course of winter.

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

a. at time of observation: none, they have a very distinct song

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	No, but original datasheets archived with Audubon LA & LDWF. Notes copied verbatim.
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

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

23. Date: 12 February 2019

Time: 14:05

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes