

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): 1, adult (definitive basic) male?
3. Parish: Vermilion
Specific Locality: Paul J. Rainey Sanctuary, east of Chenier au Tigre toward Southwest Pass
4. Date(s) when observed: 31 Jan 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: A bird was heard by Justin Lehman during a playback point count at 6:45am. A group of us went to that spot at night to conduct a drag-line survey, when we found a Black Rail in the same arear at 9:20 pm.
6. Reporting observer and address:
Erik I. Johnson, Lafayette, LA
Justin Lehman, Baton Rouge, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Timmy Vincent, Karen Westphal, Katie Percy
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):
AM: Clear and barely a breeze. PM: clear and cold, with a light breeze.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): none

11. Distance to bird(s):

AM: ~3 meters

PM: captured and banded

12. Duration of observation:

AM: About 5 seconds.

PM: about 15 minutes

13. Habitat: high salty marsh, dominated by *Spartina patens* with mixed shrubs

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

AM: Justin Lehman: Heard faint ki-ki-drr just once in front of me ~3m then a couple growls. Only ~5 sec of vocalizations. No recording.

PM: We were drag-lining looking for rails, but it was too shrubby to run the rope with noise makers. We found a relatively open patch of *S. patens* and kicked up a few Yellow Rails, which we caught and banded. As we were tracking down another Yellow Rail, Justin and Erik flushed the Black Rail, which was obviously smaller and dark – both of us instantly turned to chase the Black Rail, and Katie came over to help us circle it where it landed about 20 meters away. The bird popped up right under Erik, who caught it with a minnow net while Justin and Katie had the spotlight on it.

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*):

Bright red eye, mostly black all over, but with white spots on wings and wing coverts, rufous-brown nape patch. Possibly a male because throat was dark gray. No obvious molt limits among the alulas and p10 was distinctly spotted, so we suspect definitive basic.

16. Voice:

AM: ki-ki-drr whisper song

PM: not heard

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?): photo by Erik:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/u3bzb2j7byoh84x/20180131_212443.jpg?dl=0

Photo by Karen Westphal:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/kx5h7p722lt6s4j/20180131KW_3470.JPG?dl=0

19. Previous experience with this species: This was the 3rd capture of the drag-line surveys, funded by LDWF and USFWS.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: None

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	No, but transcribed from field datasheets
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

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

23. Date: 8 Feb 2019

Time: 10:15 pm

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