

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): 3 or 4 (1 definitive basic plumage male, captured and banded).
3. Parish: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Broussard Beach Rd. – between road and beach
4. Date(s) when observed:
3 heard at same spot during point-count playback survey. It's possible the bird caught in November 2017 (LBRC 2017-054) was among the 3 calling in March.
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
7:55am
6. Reporting observer and address:
Justin A. Lehman, 2144 General Mouton Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
None
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):
Heard only, sky partly cloudy, Beaufort scale "3" (light breeze)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): None/not relevant

11. Distance to bird(s):

Two birds 50-100 m (West and SW), a third bird 100-150 m (North)

12. Duration of observation:

Two birds (50-100 m) were heard for no more than 4-5 minutes; third bird (100-150 m) was heard for no more than 2 minutes

13. Habitat: high coastal salty marsh, dominated by *Distichilis spicata*, *Spartina spartinae*, *Spartina patens*, and *Borrchia frutescens*, with mixed shrubs

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

All three were only heard, singing “ki-ki-drr” song repeatedly, probably in response to playback

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*):

(Written in notes at time of observation): BLRA responded to BLRA playback in first minute (minute 3 of playback). Heard 2nd BLRA around minute 5 of sequence. All were singing kiki-drr. No recording (left phone in tent). At least 3 at point, possibly more. Fairly windy and the birds were a bit hard to pinpoint. Other parts of the site were burned, so the birds may have been pushed [concentrated] into the area.

16. Voice: All 3 singing “ki-ki-drrr”

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 “kiki-drr” but have a faster cadence and slightly different pitch than Black Rails

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

No photos or recordings

19. Previous experience with this species: By 16 March 2018, Justin had heard several Black Rails, especially getting vocal in early March, with a few scattered other heard-only records from Nov-Feb.

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 here
<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 February 2019

Time: 9:40 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