

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, sex and age unknown**
3. Parish: **Cameron**
Specific Locality: **Broussard Beach, LA (29.7774,-93.2812)**
4. Date(s) when observed: **28 October 2016**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **8:30 to 9:45 am**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **none**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **Dan Lane, many others at LOS meeting relocated the bird (plus a 2nd) the next day**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **never saw the bird. It was sunny, light winds.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **not relevant, not seen. Audio recorded with Samsung S6 smart phone.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **As close as 3 feet. First heard about 50-100 feet away. Wasn't calling loudly, so hard to gauge distance initially.**
12. Duration of observation: **On and off for a little over an hour. Bird (or birds?)**

called/sang for about 10 – 60 second bursts, probably about 10-15 times over the course of the hour.

13. Habitat: Coastal grass/shrub. Mix of forbs, needle rush, sparse *Spartina patens*, next to patch of *Phragmites*.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Initially gave soft song in response to playback. The bird was presumably walking around under the knee-high vegetation, as the calls and songs came from various locations. At one point (as noted in the submitted recording), I thought there may have been two birds, but convinced myself the bird could have moved quickly from one point to another. Although I was close to the bird several times (based on it calling), it never flushed.

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*): Not seen, only heard.

16. Voice: Ki-ki-drrr song given several times over the course of the hours, generally fairly soft, almost as if whispered in a couple of cases. Also more frequently gave growling calls. Submitted recording has examples of both.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): None.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Audio recordings submitted, recorded by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Heard once before (at this very spot 23 March 2013). A couple of unconfirmed (briefly flushed, but not vocalizing) in Bolivar Peninsula, TX and Rainey Sanctuary, LA.

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

a. at time of observation: Audubon Field Guide app for Android

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Memory		

study of images

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: [Yes](#)

23. Date: [22 November 2016](#)

Time: [18:05](#)

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](#)