

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*

Location: Lighthouse woods, Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Date: 22 April 2016

Age and sex: Unknown

Molt status: Unknown

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: Ryan Terrill, Glauca Del-Rio, Marco Rego, Glenn Seeholzer

Original observer: Andre Moncrieff

Circumstances: Just before we arrived at the woods at Lighthouse, we pulled over at an overgrown grassy field on the north side of the woods that had some standing water. A bunch of rails were calling, mostly Clapper and Sora, but Andre immediately picked up on a Black Rail giving the classic 'kik-kik-der' calls right by the road, just a few meters from the car. We all piled out of the car and made sure that everyone heard it well, since we were running a Big Day at the time. I then got my iPhone out and started getting a recording. Ryan got a recording with his iPhone right after me, and then I walked into the grass a short distance to get a closer recording. We let the bird be after that and continued on our way, without ever doing any playback or trying to get a look at the bird.

Description: The bird was never seen, so the identification relies entirely on the voice. We were able to listen to the bird at our leisure and have no doubt as to the identification. The bird gave the classic 'kik-kik-der' calls repeatedly, every few seconds, for the entire ~10 minutes that we were present. The bird never gave a growl call. My recordings are cataloged in the Macaulay Library under ML27604991 and are embedded in the eBird checklist S29132243. Link here: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S29132243>

Discussion: I have no doubt of the identification, as no other rails give similar calls. There is no chance that the calls were being given from playback from another person.