

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
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: just south of Gibbstown bridge
4. Date(s) when observed: May 13, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11 am
6. Reporting observer and address: Gary Broussard
1044 Leger Rd.
Breux Bridge, La 70517
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

excellent lighting conditions for observation

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):viewed without any optical equipment

11. Distance to bird(s): aprox 10 feet

12. Duration of observation: brief, as i was driving by at aprox 45mph

13. Habitat:marsh on east and west side of highway

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

the bird was flying from east side of road to the west as i was driving south.
erratic flight across highway attracted my attention, as bird appeared to be small black colored rail,

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*):

slightly smaller than red-winged blackbird. by shape and flight pattern, bird was clearly not a blackbird.

bird seemed to lack a tail in flight, but legs were visible.

before bird landed in grass, it spread wings out fully, exposing itself fully from the back....then it dropped out of sight.

i noticed it had a black head and a dark, speckled lower body,

but the thing that struck me was a chestnut color on the nape that extended onto the wing coverts. the birds shape with spread wing was clearly a rail and not a blackbird.

i was not aware, at the time, that these were marking on a Black Rail until i pulled over and looked up the bird in one my my field guide apps.

16. Voice:not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

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

19. Previous experience with this species:none

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

ibird plus app
audobon bird app

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:sibleys

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

notes made after the observation. At what date?

memory

study of images

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

23. Date: May 17, 2017

Time:2:29pm

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_____

