

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 (AHY, finishing definitive prebasic molt); male.**
3. Parish: **Cameron**
Specific Locality: **Withheld from public view per reporter's request**
4. Date(s) when observed: **2 November 2017**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **8:40 pm**
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): **Justin Lehman, Katie Barnes, Katie Percy, about 25 other people present (Yellow Rails and Rice Festival tour and banding workshop)**
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): **Dark – full moon, but with substantial clouds. Bird seen with spotlight and flashlights.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **none needed**
11. Distance to bird(s): **captured and banded**

12. Duration of observation: about 15 minutes

13. Habitat: high salty marsh – dominated by *Distichlis spicata* and *Borrichia frutescens* with other mixed grasses and forbs. Spotty with *Spartina spartinae* – another good high salty marsh indicator. Bird was found in a patch dominated by *Distichlis*.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): We were conducting a drag-line survey, in two groups of ~15 people/group. I was not part of the group that flushed and caught the bird, and arrived about 1 minute after capture upon being immediately notified by radio. My understanding is that it flushed from under Katie Barnes' feet and was spotted by her and Jack (last name?; an avid birder/high school senior). Katie captured the bird with a minnow net. I released the bird about 15 minutes later, and it walked away, disappearing into the grass, and occasionally remerging until it got about 20 feet away – amazing to watch it move through the grass like this. Work conducted under my Master Permit (#23805).

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*): 38.7 grams, mostly black plumage with white spots on back, secondary coverts, and flight feathers. Bright red iris. Extensive rusty brown patch on nape/upper back. The bird had light body molt across many tracts, but no flight feather molt. Male by dark gray throat, uniform with chest. Adult (definitive basic) by lack of molt limits among the gr coves and among the alulas, and by distinctly spotted p10 (per Pyle 2008, Vol 2).

16. Voice: giving a few grow calls here and there as we banded, measured, and processed the bird.

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

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by everyone. I'm including mine here.

19. Previous experience with this species: Not much, but I was with Jennifer Wilson and others in TX in January 2017 – caught 4 over two nights, which was helpful to start getting a sense of age/sex characteristics. I saw one in this area February 2017 during a drag-line survey (but not caught).

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: [Pyle \(1997\) Guide to North American Birds, Park I](#)

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	Yes
<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: [5 November 2017](#)

Time: [1:40 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, but perhaps it would be best if we could keep the details of the exact location hidden or private for now.**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? [Yes](#)





