

# 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](mailto: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
3. Parish: **Cameron**  
Specific Locality: **Between Holly Beach and Cameron Ferry along Hwy. 27 (29.767049,-93.368173)**
4. Date(s) when observed: **24 May 2017**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **sunset**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Van Remsen, LSUMNS**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Cameron Rutt, Marybeth Lima, Elisa Elizondo**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **Possibly same individual found previously by Katie Percy**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **sunset**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **N/A**
11. Distance to bird(s): **difficult to say but within 100 m**
12. Duration of observation: **about 10 mins, off and on**

13. Habitat: [grassy marsh](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [bird seemed to get closer in response to playback but would not come particularly close.](#)

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*): [Elisa Elizondo said that Katie Barnes had heard a bird calling near Holly Beach the previous day, and so Elisa got exact coordinates from Katie. Her locality was accessible only from the beach side, but we parked along the highway as close as we could opposite Katie's locality. Because of the distance to her coordinates, we did not think we had much hope of hearing her bird. However, the habitat looked fairly good, i.e. similar somewhat to the known locality at Broussard Beach, i.e. shallow marsh with intermittent patches of grass and bushes \(vs. deeper marsh with extensive emergent vegetation\). So, I tried some iPod playback of the growl and the keek-e-doo vocalization. Although we got no response at first, suddenly I heard the growl call in the distance. Over the next 5-10 minutes, we got the bird to respond with additional growls as well as keek-e-doo song several times, with judicious use of playback. It seemed to come closer during this time, and may have come closer if we had continued, but we decided not to continue with playback once Cameron had made a recording given that this might be a first LA breeding locality, and so we left the bird to gloat over its confidence-building, site-dominance-reinforcing victory over its unseen, silenced, vanquished electronic rival.](#)

Whether this is the same bird as Katie Barnes's is uncertain. There certainly seems to be sufficient area for more than one territory, and it seems unlikely that we could have heard the bird calling at the distance to Katie's coordinates and vice-versa.

16. Voice: [Heard the extensive low growl perhaps 3-4 times and the keek-e-doo perhaps 5 times.](#)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): [Nothing else sounds like either of the vocalizations heard.](#)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): [yes, by Cameron Rutt, available at our eBird list and submitted separately by Cameron.](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [none with the voice](#)

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

a. at time of observation: [exact match to various recordings from xeno-canto etc. on my iPod](#)

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	See <a href="#">eBird list: http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37146617</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: [18 June 2017](#)

Time:

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? [YES](#)

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