

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 apparent adult male.

3. Parish: Cameron Par
Specific Locality: Sabine Lighthouse Rd.

4. Date(s) when observed: 20 April 2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:15pm

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Daniel Lane
City: Baton Rouge
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Van Remsen, Cameron Rutt, Patty Rodrigues.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Oscar Johnson, Vitek Jirinec, Matt Brady several days earlier.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Mid-day sun overhead, clear sky.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Naked eye.

11. Distance to bird(s): from 2-10m

12. Duration of observation: Only a few seconds (30?) total for viewing, but heard non-

stop for about 30 min.

13. Habitat:

fine grass (*Spartina*?) with some *Baccharus* at the edge, probably wet in high water, but was dry footing.

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

Typical Black Rail, vocalizing from nearby under a screen of dense grasses. Would walk towards playback rather easily, and we stomped down a viewing alley for it to cross. It preferred crossing where there was some shade, and didn't dart across, but rather snuck deliberately across the gap. It crossed this gap at least four times for us to view it.

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*):

A small (sparrow-sized) rail with very dark slate gray plumage overall, chestnut nape, white spotting on back, wings, and vent. Bill black, eyes bright red, legs greenish-gray.

16. Voice:

The standard "kik-ee-doo" was the most common vocalization it gave, but it also gave growls and "pow pow" calls in response to playback of those calls.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No other North American rails that small and with that plumage pattern. Some tropical rails are similar, but differ in voice, have greenish bill and legs (e.g., Gray-breasted Crake).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes. Attached below. Recordings on eBird list:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S55256134>

19. Previous experience with this species:

In North America, I have heard it three previous times (once in NJ, twice in LA). I have also encountered two Peruvian taxa (*tuerosi* and *murivagens*), which sound and behave fairly similarly.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 23 April 2019

Time:3pm

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 _____





