

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*

Location: Sabine Lighthouse Road, Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Date: 15 & 26 April, 2019

Age and sex: Unknown, possibly a male based on vocal behavior

Molt status: Unknown

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: Matt Brady, Jeremiah Griffith, Vitek Jirinec, Marquette Mutchler, Eamon Corbett

Original observer: I'm not sure, maybe Matt or I.

Circumstances: I detected a calling Black Rail on two separate visits to Lighthouse Woods, with both detections being in the same tiny patch of vegetation in a grassy marsh, and were detected only by sound. The first detection was on 15 April and the second on 26 April. This location is private property and both visits were done with prior permission. The second visit was during the LSUMNS Big Day, so we were pressed for time and didn't spend much time trying to document the bird. Our eBird list for the second visit indicates that we got a poor recording, but none of us seem to be able to find it. Matt obtained a recording on our first visit to this location on 15 April. On both occasions we detected the rail just before or after sunset.

15 April eBird list, including Matt's recording: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S55003161>

26 April eBird list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S55460078>

Weather for the first visit: Conditions were good, clear and sunny, with a bit of a breeze (just enough to keep the mosquitoes down). Mid to high 70s. Weather for the second visit: Pleasant temps, probably around 70, light breeze, mostly clear. Truly atrocious mosquito numbers.

Description: Detected only by sound. Never seen, despite some considerable effort to get a look at the bird on our first visit. A distinctive and easily identifiable call, which on our first visit we described as "spontaneous 'keekeerduurr' calls" and on the second visit as "'Kik-kik-der' and growl calls".

Discussion: Nothing else really sounds like this bird. Our recording from 15 April supports the identification.