

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*

Location: Hwy 82 just west of the Calcasieu Ship Channel/Cameron Ferry, Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Date: 1 November 2019

Age and sex: Adults or nearly so

Molt status: Unknown

Number of individuals: Three

Other observers: About twenty observers, including Eamon Corbett, Erik Johnson, Judy Matsuoka, Justin Lehman, Marky Mutchler, Pamela Lasley, Steven Lasley, and Bernadette Kolb

Original observer: various

Circumstances: I joined Audubon Louisiana for an evening of Black Rail banding during the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. Our goal was to capture and band Black Rails at a site where a small population was known to exist. We spread out in a long line and walked through the marsh until we flushed rails, at which time myself and some of the other leaders and Audubon staff attempted to catch the rails with large bug nets. We successfully detected and/or captured three Black Rails, as well as a bonus Yellow Rail. I was too busy trying to catch rails to obtain photographs, but all captured birds were photographed by other people. Weather was quite pleasant, temps in upper 50s, calm, clear. eBird list, including photographs taken by other attendees:
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61152410>

Description: Tiny mostly black rails not much larger-bodied than a small sparrow. Short and dumpy with tiny tails and short stubby bills. Legs and bill black, eyes red. All birds had a large rusty patch on the nape. Dark gray below, with at least one bird having a slightly paler throat. All birds had broken white barring across the entire back, wings coverts, and flanks. All birds were silent.

Discussion: A straightforward identification given that we caught a few of these birds and held them in the hand. This is a known population, of which we detected on a small percentage.