

# 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):  
3 breeding individuals

3. Parish: St. Charles

Specific Locality: Salvador Wildlife Management Area; 29.81682, -90.32812;  
29.81552, -90.32499; 29.81543, -90.32571

4. Date(s) when observed: May 11, 2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 0755 - 0900

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Joseph Youtz
City: Baton Rouge
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): James Allister Rutledge, Emily Onderbeke

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): N/A

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Clear, early with morning with optimal lighting and light breeze. Birds were not observed but were heard vocalizing repeatedly. Several sound recordings were made on the date of the observation.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Monarch 5 binoculars, 10x42, good condition

11. Distance to bird(s): 5-15 m, individuals moved during the period of observation but remained relatively close to the observers

12. Duration of observation: ~65 mins

13. Habitat: Dry intermediate marsh dominated by *Sagittaria lancifolia* and *Panicum hemitomon* approximately 50 m from access canal. No visible ponding, pools, or tidal creeks observed within the vicinity.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Individuals elicited several vocalizations during the observation period, including the distinguishing kik-kik-burr and low kerr-kerr-kerr grunt.

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*): Birds were not visible during this observation. Distinguishing characteristics were made by vocalizations.

16. Voice: Individuals elicited several vocalizations during the observation period, including the distinguishing kik-kik-burr and low kerr-kerr-kerr grunt.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Given the habitat, there are few species that could be confused for this species. Least Bitterns also have a harsh kek call but given that the observation was made in a dry marsh with no standing water or visible pools this seems unlikely. Further, the multiple different vocalizations made and recorded during this observation excludes bitterns as a possibility for this observation.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Recordings of several vocalizations made and attached to this observation.

19. Previous experience with this species: First observation for this species, but extensive experience using vocalizations of this species to elicit responses from other secretive marsh birds following the Standardized North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Protocol.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): Confirmation with J.A. Rutledge upon hearing initial calls.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	6/29/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 6/29/2022

Time: 1320

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\_\_\_\_\_