

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: **Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 age and sex unknown

3. Parish: **Cameron**

Specific Locality: **Rutherford Beach Road near terminus, and one of the side streets**

4. Date(s) when observed: **15 Dec 2023**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **about 6:15-6:35 off and on**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Night time; bird seen by headlight and flashlight illumination.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Vortex 12s**

11. Distance to bird(s): **about 20 yds**

12. Duration of observation: **about 20 minutes off and on**

13. Habitat: **Roadside and road running through scrubby coastal brush.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Bird was hunting along the roadside: running, hopping, diving into grass. Bird was somewhat wary and stayed ahead of my approach, sometimes flying into nearby brush for a minute or two, only to reappear a little farther down the road.**

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*):

Small, sandy brown owl with long legs, yellow eyes, broad goggle-shaped facial disc with thick pale brow, barring on underparts divided by pale center line. Ran and hopped with great agility.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No other small terrestrial owls nearby. **Larger owls by size, behavior, pattern. Barn Owls were also present and perched on ground at times, but much paler, different facial structure. Short-eared also known to be in area, but much different morphology.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **A few poor but sufficient pics.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Pretty wide experience. First saw them as winter residents in pastures in Vermilion Parish in the 1970s, and since in large colonies out west and irregularly in Louisiana.**

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

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 type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: **24 Dec 2023**



