

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 adult

3. Parish: Calcasieu

Specific Locality: Lionel Derouen Road; cattle pen between Hwy 27 and Fruge Road

4. Date(s) when observed: 25 January, 2025

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:00am

6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003

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

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Esme Rosen, Nick Ramsey, David Booth, Dan Lane, Van Remsen, et al.; earliest I know of was James Smithers on 5 January.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny. Bird perched in direct sunlight.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 12x50 EL; excellent condition
11. Distance to bird(s): max. 20 feet
12. Duration of observation: 12 minutes
13. Habitat: Cattle pen in the middle of wide open pasture.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird first seen sitting on fence post. Would fly to and perch on large tractor tire on ground and then back to fence post. Occasionally would perch on ground. Seemed to be hunting the whole time. Not at all concerned about me.
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*): I suppose this is an individual from the Florida population based on some features, but there may be slight overlap in distinguishing features that Sibley details among Western vs. Florida. Streaked crown rather than spotted; bill color like horn, not bright yellow; white band across forehead and over eyes not very thin; long legs of course and covered in short white feathers; brown upper parts covered in white spots and same for breast; broken brown bands below breast, fading toward legs.
16. Voice: N/A
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No similar owl species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Several photos.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several times in multiple western states and once in Louisiana.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: Sibley just to look at differences between regional populations.

21. This description is written from:
Memory and photos.

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

23. Date: 1 February, 2025
Time: 7:17pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____yes_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____yes_____





