

# 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: [Burrowing Owl](#) (*Athene cunicularia*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
[One, unknown age/sex.](#)

3. Parish: [Cameron](#)

Specific Locality: [Cameron Prairie NWR, East Cove Unit, southern block of CS-54 restoration project \(29.85952, -93.22041\)](#)

4. Date(s) when observed: [10 March 2025](#)

5. Time(s) of day when observed: [12:20 pm](#)

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: <a href="#">Erik I. Johnson</a>
City: <a href="#">Sunset</a>
State: <a href="#">LA</a>

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Jonathon Lueck, Angela Trahan.](#)

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): [None.](#)

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Clear, midday bright sun, looking SE.](#)

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [Vortex Razor 10x42 ED binoculars.](#)

11. Distance to bird(s): [Flushed about 50 feet out, landed 300 feet away.](#)

12. Duration of observation: Initially for about 3 minutes on initial flush and landing, then the bird must have hunkered down into the grass. Flushed a second time for another 15 second view in flight.

13. Habitat: A ~6-year old restoration containment dike, vegetated by a mix of grasses and shrubs, surrounded by intermediate marsh. Flushed out of a pile of debris probably washed in during the 2020 hurricane season.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Initially seen in flight headed away from us about 50 feet out, and then landed atop thick *Spartina patens* grasses. Posed there for several minutes. As we got closer along the containment dike, it hunkered down. As I got closer, I walked out into the marsh to try to get a better view, and it flushed again, flying back to its original hide out.

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*):

Flushed from vegetated containment dike out of a pile of hurricane debris. Flew out over the marsh, just a few feet above the grass for about 100 m and 15 seconds. Notably small (relative to Barn/Short-eared Owl), perhaps roughly Sora-sized. Rapid wing beats with brief glides and pale brown above. Short tail, broad rounded wings, and big head that seemed to barely stick out past the wings (no neck). Then landed on the top of matted *Spartina patens* where we could see the top half, but glared with overhead sun as we looked SE/SSE. Upright posture with white markings in the chest and throat. Overall shape, size, and color distinctive, even without making out details of plumage.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): A few things quickly crossed my mind when I initially saw the bird flying away, like Least Bittern and Short-eared Owl, as those were at least moderately expected. But immediately I landed on Burrowing Owl as the ID – much too petite (and unmarked on wings) for any of the other likely owls and completely wrong flight style for a bittern, rail, etc. When the bird landed, the upright posture and squarish head with no visible bill (we were looking head-on, but at a distance in not ideal light) were diagnostic.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): A single cell-phone photo by me, attached, during second flush attempt. It mostly just shows the habitat.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several times in Louisiana and out west.

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

a. at time of observation: **None.**

b. after observation: **None.**

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S217757172">https://ebird.org/checklist/S217757172</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: **11 March 2025**

Time: **10:00 pm**

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**

