

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM**

1. English and scientific Names:

Chihuahuan Raven, *Corvus cryptoleucus*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 bird, appeared to be adult bird, sex not apparent.

3. Locality: (Parish)

Cameron Parish, Louisiana, Baton Rouge Audubon Society Peveto Woods, west side of unit along trail parallel to entrance road immediately to the west of the home slab and weather station.

4. Date(s) when observed:

09/21/2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

Approximately 11:40AM CDST.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner

428 Hickory Hill Drive

Boyce, LA 71409

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

None

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):

Bird in good light with no shadows. Sun to east.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Zeiss Conquest HD 10 x 42 Binoculars – good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

Between 20-25 feet.

12. Duration of observation:

At least 15 seconds. Hard to gauge because I was spending most of my time trying to watch the bird.

13. Habitat:

Heavy chenier habitat.

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

I was walking along the trail on the west side of the property adjacent to heavy brush. I detected strong rustling in the brush at about waist level. Almost immediately a large

black bird emerged from the brush and perched at about 8 feet about ground level on the top of a vine covered bush. I saw the bird clearly at approximately 20-25 feet both with my eyes and with my binoculars. The bird remained staring at me for at least 15 seconds (probably longer) and dived into the brush. I remained in the area searching for it and using play back but did not relocate it.

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):

eBird Report Comments:

Bird discovered about 11:40 AM CDST in brushy area on west side of Peveto Woods Sanctuary adjacent to the weather station next to the access road. I heard rustling in the brush and a very large corvid flew upward onto the top of a bush covered with vines, about 8 feet off the ground. The bird appeared to be larger than an American Crow. I had sort of expected a Groove-billed Ani but it had a conical-shaped bill. The eyes were black, not yellow, ruling out Great-tailed Crackle, a large "black" bird. The bird was approximately 20-25 feet from me and I had a clear view of it with my binoculars. The bill was more massive than that of a Fish Crow or an American Crow. The nasal bristles were obvious and extended well down the mandible. So, what was the bird doing there? Perhaps the bird was there as a consequence of TS Imelda? Or, perhaps it arrived before the storm?! I spent about 20 minutes in the area trying to relocate the bird and used playback to no avail. The bird was in view long enough for me to realize that it was not a crow, grackle or ani but not long enough for me to take pictures!

16. Voice

Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Alternatives could be Fish Crow, American Crow, or Great-tailed Grackle. The bird was too large to be Fish Crow and my impression was that it seemed larger than American Crow. Eyes were black and body was too robust for Great-tailed Grackle. Presence of nasal bristles that gave bill a thick appearance at from its base forward spoke against identification as a crow.

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

I was unable to photograph the bird.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen and heard Chihuahuan Raven several times in west central Texas.

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

National Geographic Field Guide, Kaufman's Birds of North America Field Guide, National Audubon Society Bird Identification and I-Bird Pro apps on I-phone. Also Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America.

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation ( notes attached?):  made after the observation (date: 09/26/19);  memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain:

Yes

23. Signature of reporter: \_\_\_\_\_ signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 09/26/19 Time: 9:30 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

Notes: 9/21/19: 11:40 AM CDST. W side Peveto Trail across from weather station. Huge Corvid jumped out of under brush. Stopped in plain view on top of vine covered brush. Immediate thought Ani. No bill heavy. Comparatively narrow compared to Ani. Clear view about 15 seconds. Would not respond to playback. Dark Eye. No pictures. Shiny black.