

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: **Chihuahuan Raven, *Corvus cryptoleucus***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **1**
3. Parish: **Cameron Parish**
Specific Locality: **5 miles west of community of Rutherford Beach and followed as it flew east about 6 miles.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **May 12, 2019**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **12:50 to 13:10**
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Dave Patton
City: Lafayette
State: LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Paul Conover**
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): **Bright sun, first looking to the west and followed it as it flew over. Chased and had views from different sides and heights from @150 to @500 feet.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Binoculars and view through camera with 400mm lens.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **150 feet to ½ mile**
12. Duration of observation: **20 minutes**

13. Habitat: **Coastal beach. It climbed and ventured offshore once, but returned to follow the beach at different heights as it flew east.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **First seen circling over the beach about ½ mile to the west. It flapped and soared with wings held straight out and was obviously different from gulls, wading birds, vultures, and other soaring birds often seen over the beach. It flew over us heading east combining flapping and soaring. At one point it joined a group of Laughing Gulls that were circling and climbing as they moved offshore. It circled with them and went offshore about 1 mile before breaking away and returning to the beach and continuing east. It reached the community of Rutherford Beach, and began circling and climbing among the swallows feeding 200 to 300 feet above the beach houses. A sequence of photos shows it catching a large insect in it's bill. It broke from the swallows and continued east at a high altitude.**

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*): **The only color detected was black. The shape was similar to a crow, but it looked bigger with a heavier bill and longer tail. The primaries were separated in flight like fingers on a hand. The tail was long and slightly delta shaped, but not to a point. There were a few central tail feathers missing, but not so many that changed the shape. The wings were often bent at the wrist in the flapping motion, and soaring was often included in the flight with the wings held out straight. One photo shows what looks to be the bristles on top of the bill extending further than half way to the tip of the bill. When it joined the group of Laughing Gulls, it's size was heavier in bulk, but not much different in wing span. Photos better illustrate all these points.**

16. Voice:
None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
**Looked a little larger than a Common Crow with heavier bill, more pointed tail, and flapping motion that include more bend in the wing. More soaring with wings held straight than a Common Crow.
Common Raven would have been bigger in comparison to the size of the gulls, the tail would have had a more pointed delta shape, and the bristles would not extend so far along the top of the bill.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, Dave Patton,**

400 mm lens.

19. Previous experience with this species: **Chihuahuan Ravens seen in Texas.**

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

a. at time of observation: **Sibley's**

b. after observation: **Sibley's and National Geographic**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: **May 22, 2019**

Time: **7 AM**

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













