

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Limpkin, *Aramus guarana*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
Two adults
3. Locality: Terrebonne Parish  
Specific Locality: N. Hollywood Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 02/03/2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca 10:30 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Many
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Bird found by Michael Autin
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good light.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Fieldscope 20-60X, Zeiss 10s, Samsung S8 thru scope
11. Distance to bird(s): probably 20 yards at least
12. Duration of observation: 2 hours
13. Habitat: freshwater marsh edge near spoil bank levee with scatted clumps of tall aquatic grass and shallow water covered in hyacinth. Exotic apple snails (*Pomacea canaliculata*, I believe) present in large numbers.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: First seen hidden in dense grass and heard calling loudly from this clump. Eventually 2 birds wandered out and fed, occasionally retrieving large snails from the water and violently hammering them with their bills until extracting snail meat.
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):

Large, long-legged brown waders that looked like giant rails.

Brown body feathers and wing coverts inset with vivid, discreet white markings creating a speckled appearance. Long, slightly decurved orange bill with dusky culmen.

Because these birds may be the best photographed rarities ever in Louisiana, a more detailed description is unnecessary.



16. Voice: Piercingly loud calls with a strange quality, some calls short and harsh, others drawn out and repeated.

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

Markings eliminate ibis of any kind, bill shape eliminates night herons.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos, video, audio.

19. Previous experience with this species: Only once, not as good as this time.

20. This description is written from memory and photos.

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

22. Date: 02/27/2018