

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:** Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):**
2 adults, 6 downy chicks
3. **Parish:** Terrebonne
Specific Locality: North Hollywood Rd, Houma
4. **Date(s) when observed:** March 26 & 27, 2018
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** ~6:15PM
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Jessica Schulz, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):** Robert Dobbs
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** many others have seen adults; well-known stakeout
9. **Light conditions** (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Birds observed in side light: birds were north of observer in fairly open light, sun sinking into the west
10. **Optical equipment (type, power, condition):** Swarovski STX spotting scope, 85mm with 25X-60X eyepiece
11. **Distance to bird(s):** 60-70 meters
12. **Duration of observation:** 30 minutes

13. **Habitat:** Birds appeared to be walking on emergent/floating vegetation or boggy flats at the edge of Lake Houma (~500 acres).

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

3/25: Adults observed herding a handful of downy chicks into some short vegetation, where they mostly stayed still but periodically poked their heads out. Adults were cutting vegetation and placing all around the patch where chicks were hidden; we hypothesized maybe they were creating a bedding area/night roost for chicks, or perhaps exposing smaller prey for chicks.

3/26: Adults observed foraging and guarding chicks, which were partially hidden in vegetation most of the time but would periodically tumble about, allowing us to count. One adult observed feeding a chick. The adults would permit other birds (BWTE, BTGR, COGA & AMCO) to get surprisingly close to chicks, but on two occasions an adult ran at other birds with open wings when they got "too" close.

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):** Adults were large brown crane-like birds; brown wing coverts, body & neck feathers distinctively stippled in triangular white patches. Slightly larger/bulkier than SNEG. Bill long, orange-brown & slightly decurved. Dark eyes, dark grayish-brown legs. Chicks were brown & downy, about "knee"-height to adults. Subtle light & dark brown streaking on face. Bill dark; bill length slightly less than width of head; dark eye.

16. **Voice:** Did not vocalize loud enough for us to hear (although appeared to be vocalizing quietly around chicks)

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

Glossy/White-faced Ibis: these birds were much larger than *Plegadis* sp, with non-iridescent feathers with white stippling; bill shorter, thicker, and less decurved

18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):** Photos and video by J. Schulz attached

19. **Previous experience with this species:** None, except for additional observations of this particular pair over the past month

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

a. at time of observation: Confirmed in situ by Rob Dobbs, who is experienced in identification of this species. Also consulted iBird app. (Was initially alerted to presence of this pair by various other birders.)

b. after observation: Checked *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* for more info.

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
X	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	3/25/18 (evening)
X	memory		
X	study of images		

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

23. Date: March 27, 2018

Time: 12:26 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 _____



