

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach Xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:

Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

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

One, Male

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

01/31/2016 - Immediately east of 156 Dannehl Road, Columbia, LA just off Big Ridge Road, Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. Big Ridge Road intersects LA 4 about 1.6 miles from site. South side of road in Beouf WMA.

02/06/2016 – In yard of 156 Dannehl Road, Columbia, LA (north side of road) and across road in Beouf WMA (south side).

4. Date(s) when observed:

01/31/2016 // 02/13/2016

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

01/31/2016 - First detected about 11:40 AM CST and seen on/off for about 5-6 minutes - south side of road.

02/06/2016 – First detected about 2:00 PM CST and seen more or less continually until 3:10 PM when we left area.

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):

01/31/2016 - None // 02/06/2016 - Steve Pagans

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

01/31/2016 - None // Willie Matthews

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

01/31/2016 - Looking south into dark woods. Area badly backlit. Bird best seen when on side of trees facing road.

02/06/2016 – Bird seen primarily on south side of road in Beouf WMA. It was somewhat backlit from my vantage point but could be seen clearly when situated on face of tree to which it oriented during most of the time it was in view.

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

Zeiss 10 x 42 binocular – good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

01/31/16 - 30-40 feet // 02/06/2016 – As close as 30 feet and as far as 150 feet.

12. Duration of Observation:

5-6 minutes on/off.

13. Habitat:

01/31/2016 - Bottomland hardwood forest regenerating in Beouf WMA.

02/06/2016 – Bottomland hardwood forest regenerating in Beouf WMA and yard of Lewis Dannehl which had numerous deciduous trees in it.

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

01/31/2016 - Bird responded to Eastern Screech-owl playback being used to attract songbirds while doing a birding survey. Playback had been playing for about 5 minutes and a number of expected songbirds had come to the playback. The bird appeared on the side of a tree about 20 feet above the ground and within about 10-15 feet of the roadway. I was on the opposite side of the road so distance to the bird was around 30-40 feet. Tree was at least 18 inches wide where the bird appeared. When it hiked in front of my on the

tree face, I saw a distinct red nape. It hiked around the tree and then flew to an adjacent tree and out of view. I then saw what I thought was that bird but it turned out to be a sapsucker without a red nape. I was checking my Sibley's field guide when a sapsucker appeared again in the original tree and I saw the red nape. That's when I managed to get an image although I did not find the bird on the image until I got home.

02/06/2016 – Steve Pagans and I searched for the bird at the 01/31/2016 site for several hours using owl and sapsucker playback from time to time. We did have a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker respond early but did not see it later. SP remarked that there was no evidence of sapsucker wells around us. Later he walked up the road and noticed that the Lewis Dannehl yard seem to be excellent sapsucker habitat and detected sapsucker drumming. So, we went to the yard and met Mrs. Lewis Dannehl who was getting mail and asked if we could stay on the road and search for the sapsucker. She said yes and were eating a late lunch around 1:45 PM. We played RNSA playback around 2:00 PM and a sapsucker came quickly to our location from the Dannehl Road. It proved to be the RNSA. We noted it fly into the WMA on the south side of the road and subsequently came back into the Dannehl yard. While it was south of the road SP got decent pictures of it. We went to the home to explain the rarity of the road and met Mr. Dannehl. When we returned to the road, we noted the bird back in the WMA. SP subsequently went into the woods and was able to photograph the bird again in a chosen oak – perhaps over cup oak. I watched from the road and saw the bird move back and forth from a huge oak to the smaller over cup oak from time to time. We left around 3:10 PM with the bird still foraging in the WMA. It did not respond to RNSA or YBSA again.

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):

01/31/2016 – At the time I was observing the bird, I saw a distinct red nape. There did not seem to be a clear demarcation between the solid red chin and throat and this seemed to bleed into the black submalar stripe. When I found the image of the bird facing me on a tree, I noticed that the whitish checkering on the back was arranged in two distinct columns on the back. That image will be submitted with this report.

02/06/2016 – I have, of course, seen the images that SP and Willie Matthews have taken of the bird. However, what I saw on this day was consistent with what I saw on 01/31/2016 and I was able to see the features for a far longer period than before.

16. Voice:

Bird silent to the best of my knowledge.

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

The question becomes whether or not this bird was a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with a red nape, a hybrid Yellow-bellied x Red-naped sapsucker, or a male Red-naped Sapsucker. Based on my limited knowledge of Red-naped Sapsuckers and reference to various field guides and on-line images, I think that the characteristics are more consistent with a male Red-naped Sapsucker than a hybrid with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. J. V. Remsen has submitted various images to several experts and reviews are mixed.

18. Photos/Recordings:

Photo to be submitted with this report 01/31/2016. No recordings. Pagans to submit his images with his report for 02/06/2016.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I viewed several individuals in Colorado in 2006. M. J. Musumeche and I encountered what we identified as a Red-naped Sapsucker in the Crowley area around the year 2000. The record was submitted to LBRC and apparently judged to be a RNSA x YBSA hybrid.

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

- a. at time of observation: Sibley Field Guide and National Geographic Field Guide
- b. after observation: Peterson Field Guide, Kaufman Field Guide, various on-line sources.

21. This description is written from:   x   notes made during the observation (notes attached?);   x   notes made after the observation;   x   memory.

01/31/2016 – 11:40 AM Distinct Red Nape, border did not seem distinct between throat/neck – 2 birds. One RNSA/other YBSA? Checked Sibley. No apparent reaction of either bird to RNSA and YBSA playback. Came to ES Owl playback. Badly backlit. One w/ one w/o red nape! [Birds associated with sapsucker location.] RBWP, DOWP, EAPH, BLJA, CACH, TUTI, HETH, AMRO, CAWR, YRWA, NOCA.

02/06/2016 – Lewis Dannehl. No one in yard. Don't come up and ask. Bird seen almost continuously from 2:00 PM and 3:10 PM. Primarily using single tree on west [south!] side of road. Oak – maybe overcup oak.

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

See “Similar Species” discussion above.

23. Signature of reporter   Jay V. Huner   02/27/2016 8:15 PM.

