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# 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.

Burrowing owl.

1. English and Scientific names: *Athene Cunicularia*

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

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Bossier

Specific Locality: Cane's Landing in Bossier city

4. Date(s) when observed: 10-05-06

5. Time(s) of day when observed: CA 1008-1020h.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Terry Davis  
2327 walnut #2  
Bossier, LA 71112

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): you will have to <sup>contact w/</sup> refer to them to find out exactly how well they saw it. Dr. mac Hardy, Dr. Rosemary Seidler, and Amanda Crnkovic

Dr Hardy says he is fairly sure of his.

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

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): 1st observation at feet. Good w/light above, 2nd the bird was actually toward the sun but being on ground the light was actually very good 3rd obs. bird further away but better light. Last - Brief observation and not well on my part

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

Burton eterna 11x40 in good condition

11. Distance to bird(s):

3' when flushed first

75' to 110 yds. after that - Briefly again - not seen as well at 4' to 100 yards.

On last observation as bird flushed & left when on the last sighting

12. Duration of observation:

15 mins total

13. Habitat: Open Field of Bermuda and Johnson Grass w edge of weedy spoilbanks/piles of concrete, lumber, pipes, etc. To the west, thin band of thicker woods between there and River.

[http://losbird.org/lbrc/report\\_form.htm](http://losbird.org/lbrc/report_form.htm)

10/9/2006

## Burdrowing owl

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

Bird initially flushed from edge of concrete pile immediately beneath me. I was focusing my gaze on distant Sparrows. But caught sight of the pale brownish + pale whitish spots as the bird hopped twice + flew to approx. 75 yds. ESE of me. the flight was slightly awkward and low over the ground. The bird sat facing me for approx 5 minutes before hopping once, and flying slightly high - 8-10' to the NW and ~~landed~~ <sup>landed</sup> again. A female-type Anker had spotted the bird and flew over it giving "kle kle" calls but this seemed to have no effect on the bird. Immediately after that a group of ca 75 Starlings were flying

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):

At 75 yards approx. Small owl w/ long off whitish CRAY legs. white "Flying Gull" appearance above pale eyes and ~~whitish~~ <sup>decidedly</sup> white throat. Breast dark w blotchy transverse whitish streaking. whitish lower throat dipping into center of upper-chest. The crown was dark, but spotting not extremely evident from my observation point/distance. The short and very rounded wings very noticeable in flight, as was the superficial "Barred Owl" color appearance each time the bird relocated and especially so when the bird flushed at my feet. I think that the bird was actually in/under the concrete before I approached due to how close I was when it flushed.

16. Voice: None The head round + noticeably flatter in appearance than other owls

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Short-eared Owl - by <sup>smaller</sup> size long legs, face pattern/chest and overall flight pattern + behavior. Shorter rounded wings.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: I became fairly familiar w/ the Eastern subspecies years ago while helping around the old junkyards in Davie, Fla. in Broward Co. They would sit atop the junky rusted cars.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): And were fairly "fame"

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: Glanced briefly at Sibley + Nat Geo.

21. This description is written from: Tim's notes made during the observation (~~Tim's~~ notes attached?);      notes made after the observation (date:     );  memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Terry Davis Date: 10-08-06 Time: 9:30 P.M.

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website?

If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Cont. - Behaviour

## Burrowing Owl

Across the field headed WNW - more as we when they spotted the bird. They immediately tightened the flock and rose to a height of approx. 80' and circled once. On the second circle, they dropped low and then changed course abruptly making a loud "wloosh" w combined wingpower. The BUOW ~~Flashed~~ Flinch = stooped and flicked the wings once but did not fly. The BUOW had turned to follow the Starlings as they came in again and repeated the aforementioned behaviour. This was repeated several times whereupon the bird Hopped once and flew again to the west - a short weak flight of approx 50 feet. I lost sight of the bird but kept my eyes on the exact spot. The grass there being slightly taller and obscuring its exact whereabouts. I was on the phone trying to contact people and the bird flew again a few minutes later to the W about 100 Yards and I lost sight of it as it dropped to the edge of taller weeds NEAR a pile of old Broken pallets + concrete. ~~At~~ Shortly thereafter, Mac Hardy and Amanda Cerkovic arrived and then Rosemary Seidle. We circled the area where the bird dropped flying again to flush it. The bird flushed finally some time after that. It initially started toward the open field but saw Rosemary + abruptly turned back toward the weedy rear of the spoil piles. The bird then flew from an unseen position up through Black willows headed toward the river. The final flight was definitely much stronger than those before that. The bird has never been relocated - The wings were pale below.