

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: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1, age and sex unknown
3. Parish: LaFourche
Specific Locality: Fourchon Beach, 5.8 km NE Port Fourchon (29.13349 N, -90.14352 W)
4. Date(s) when observed: 17 December 2014
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:05 am
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dan O'Malley
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none known
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): mid-day sun, angled to south (almost winter solstice). First look was into the sun, then Dan and I flushed it twice more and got a variety of looks. The bird always stayed low (<10 feet above the ground) when flying.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars. Nikon D7000 with 80-400 f/4.5-5.6 ED VR lens

11. Distance to bird(s): 10 – 100 ft

12. Duration of observation: Seen on and off for about 8 minutes, with intervals of flight, then disappearing. Once watched standing on crest of dune.

13. Habitat: Beach with mixed forbs and grasses interspersed. Also black mangrove to east and north and *Spartina alterniflora* marsh to north and northwest.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Not seen until flushed. May have been roosting in a coyote dig-out (digging out ghost crabs?). Flushed a few other times and the bird stood alert when landing. It disappeared a couple times after it landed, but once we saw it well before it flew off back into the mangroves for cover.

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*): Small owl (smaller than Barn, Short-eared, etc), pale brown/tan overall, with rounded wings and short tail. Long legs when standing. No ear tufts. Back and wings spotted white on pale brown.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): None. Other owls either too large, wrong pattern, and/or not likely found here or on the open beach.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, Erik and Dan both took photos. I'm including mine here.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several times now in LA as well as a few other times in Texas and once recently in southern Brazil.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Sibley Guide to North American Birds Vol 2

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
x	memory		
X	study of images		

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

23. Date: 17 December 2014

Time: 3:20 pm

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

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