

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, unknown age/sex

3. Parish: Calcasieu

Specific Locality: Corbina Rd., 0.2 mi N of Friesen Rd., SSE of Lake Charles (30.084870, -93.162298)

4. Date(s) when observed: 16 January 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:15 pm

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: Sunset
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Ceci Johnson

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Several birders, and apparently located at this spot a few days earlier by “a young guy named Phillip” (per Katie Barnes). I didn’t realize at the time, but I suppose there’s a question whether this is the same bird that James Smithers found on 4 January 2023 nearby on Tom Stegal Rd. As of the time of writing this (29 Jan), there are eBird reports from that roost location (a culvert about 1 mile NNE) between 4 Jan and 17 Jan, whereas this location has ebird reports from 14 Jan through 22 Jan. I haven’t checked the unconfirmed records review panel. I think there’s a general assumption these two locations involves one bird.

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

light): Overcast, even light.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex Razor 10x42 binoculars. Nikon D7200 with Sigma 150-600mm f/4.5-6.3 lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): 60 ft (as measured in Google Maps)

12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes

13. Habitat: Sitting inside a discarded tire along a gravel pull-off within a cattle pasture (historically probably prairie)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Observant, peaking over the edge of the tire, and looking around, but otherwise not moving. After watching the bird for about 5+ minutes, a small herd of cows walked right past the bird, on both sides of the tire (between us and the bird, and also the other side of the bird). The bird did not move from the location.

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*): Flat, brown crown with pale fine streaks, pale eyebrows, and bright yellow eyes. Really couldn't see the rest of the bird, but that was enough to ID it, especially given location/behavior (and being a stakeout).

16. Voice: none.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Nothing else really quite like it. Clearly an owl. Habitat and yellow eyes eliminates most likely candidates, and shape of head eliminates Short-eared.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos included.

19. Previous experience with this species: This is my 5th sighting and probably 4th bird seen in LA. Only seen once out west – a brief view of a bird in flight in the dark crossing the road.

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

a. at time of observation: none.

b. after observation: none.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 29 January 2023

Time: 11:00 am

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.



