

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*
 2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One
 3. Parish:
East Baton Rouge
 4. Specific Locality:
Storage Center 2914 S Sherwood Forest Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
 5. Date(s) when observed: November 16, 2024
 6. Time(s) of day when observed: 4:30 PM
 7. Reporting observer: Katherine Gividen
 8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Lauren Cox was with me. Her photos accompany this report. From Lauren...
- Hi Katherine,
- You have my permission to submit any information I gave you about the burrowing owl to the committee. Feel free to contact me if you need any more information.
- Lauren Cox
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Scott Smith
 10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): It was probably initially discovered around 4:15 PM.
 11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Cell cameras.
 12. Distance to bird(s): Lauren and Scott got within feet of it. When I got there it had already flown to the top of the Storage Center sign.
 13. Duration of observation: Maybe an hour?

14. Habitat: Busy 4 lane street.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Scott Smith was the one who initially discovered the owl after it slammed into his business. It was stunned. I was told mockingbirds mobbed it, so that is why it flew to the sign.

16. 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):

It was just perched on top of the storage sign. I was able to get some linemen to drive their truck over to the sign. One of the linemen got in the bucket and was raised to the top of the sign. When he got eye level with the owl, it flew away from the road and landed on the roof of nearby businesses. I went to the businesses the next day and was given access to the roof, but there was no owl on the roof.

17. Voice:

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Short-eared Owl. Short-eared Owls have shorter legs and heavier vertical streaking.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
Yes. I have both photographs and video.

20. Previous experience with this species: N/A

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

Merlin, eBird, Kaufman guide.

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting, After observation

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

24. Date report completed:

I reported it to eBird on 11/16/24. Just now 1/10/25 reporting it to the records committee.

25. 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

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

Yes