

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):
1 adult
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Acadia Drive just north of Rutherford Beach 75 meters west of intersection with
Rutherford Beach Road
5. Date(s) when observed: January 2, 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 7:40 pm
7. Reporting observer: Charles Lyon
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Melissa Weaver
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Charlotte Chehotsky, Tom and Claire Hanson
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Light mist at night with bird illuminated by high beams from vehicle as bird perched in road 20 meters in front of us
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x42 Swarovski binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 20 meters
13. Duration of observation: 30 seconds
14. Habitat: area of tall marsh and shrub vegetation was along side the road in which the owl came out of
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Play back

was used to coax the owl out of vegetation along side the road where it was hidden. We drove down Calcasieu Drive and then Acadia stopping occasionally to play Burrowing Owl calls notes, and were successful in seeing the owl on Acadia. It first flew to the south side of the road where we caught a glimpse of it, and then a few seconds later it appeared in front of us on the road. As it flew off it gave distinctive BUOW chatter notes.

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 a small bodied long legged owl with piercing yellow eyes on a light brownish face, round head and no ear tufts. It was brown with white spotting above and brown barred below with a whitish breast.

17. Voice: Distictive chatter notes were given in flight

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

There are no other North American owls that are small and long legged that perch on the ground.

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

None but Claire and Tom Hanson got photos of this bird the following evening.

20. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in multiple states as well as previously in LA.

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

None

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

January 11, 2025

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