

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
  
2 presumed adults, sex not noted, but probably a mated pair, so 1 male and 1 female..
3. Louisiana - Parish: Terrebonne  
Specific Locality: Houma, North Hollywood Road, edge of Lake Houma.  
Coordinates: 29.611641, -90.721247.
4. Date(s) when observed: 02/01/2018, 02/03/2018, 02/08/2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1040, 1045, 0920.
6. Reporting observer and address:  
Nancy L Newfield  
Casa Colibrí  
3016 45th Street  
Metairie, LA 70001  
504-338-3882
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Stephen M Locke on 02/03 and Tom Trenchard on 02/08.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Originally discovered by Michael Autin and observed by many others, including Mac Myers and Dave Patton, who were present when I arrived on 02/01/2018.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): High overcast/partly cloudy.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL Swarovision 10x42 binocular [excellent condition]

11. Distance to bird(s): 40 feet or so.

12. Duration of observation: 1 hour, 45 minutes; 40 minutes; 1 hour respectively.

13. Habitat: Wetland, edge of medium-sized lake with small emergent trees [probably mostly Black Willow *Salix nigra*], cattails [presumably *Typha latifolia*] surrounded a small islet where the birds were seen on 02/08.

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

During my first visit, 1 of the birds remained perched low in a willow, while the other walked around in shallow water near the bank on which the willow grew. It was not actively feeding. On subsequent visits, 1 of them was observed eating some of the large Apple Snails [presumably *Pomacea maculata*] that infest the area.

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*):

These were large, long-legged water [or wading] birds. They were somewhat more than 2 feet tall, with longish necks and longish somewhat decurved bills. Their basic coloration was a medium, flat brown with light-colored streaking on their heads, necks, chests and wings. Lower underparts were unstreaked dark brown. The maxilla was mostly dark brown, except for a section near the base that was dull orangish while the mandible was mostly dull orangish. Legs were dull dark brown.

16. Voice: No vocalizations on first visit. On subsequent visits, I heard a loud, 'trumpeting cackle'.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Nothing else in North America looks like a Limpkin.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None.

19. Previous experience with this species: Relatively brief encounters in Florida [1976, 20 minutes], Mexico [1985, 20 minutes], Cuba [2008, 30 minutes].

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
None really needed, but I glanced at the species accounts at the time of observation and later.

National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* [sixth edition]  
*The Sibley Guide to Birds*.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

|                                     |                                    |                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | no |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | notes made after the observation.  | At what date?       |    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | memory                             |                     |    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images                    |                     |    |

Verbal notes were made into a small digital recorder and then used to create eBird lists, from which I derive the information for this report.

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

Absolutely!

23. Signature of reporter:

*Nancy L Newfield*

Date: 2/17/2018 Time: 1000

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.