

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names:

Lucy's Warbler (*Oreothlypis luciae*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1, possible HY/SY male

3. Parish: Jefferson

Specific Locality: Grilletta Tract, Grand Isle, LA

4. Date(s) when observed: 7 Nov 2014 (photos), 18 Dec 2014 (photos), 5 Jan 2015 (sight only)

5. Time(s) of day when observed: various; 7 Nov 2014, ~9:00 am; 18 Dec 2014, 7:40 am and 9:30 am; 5 Jan 2015: early afternoon (don't have exact time in notes).

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): 7 Nov 2014: Molly Richard, Natalie Waters, Casey Wright, Mark Meunier. 18 Dec 2014: none. 5 Jan 2015: David Gessner.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): J. Van Remsen found the bird on 5 Nov 2014, and it has been seen by many other observers since.

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

The bird has been seen in a variety of lighting situations from overcast to in the shade of a canopy on a sunny day.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, Nikon D7000 camera with 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): Varied, as close 15-30 feet on each observation.

12. Duration of observation: Usually just a few seconds at a time.

13. Habitat: Seen in scrub bordered by rows of live oak

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

Bird very furtive, but didn't seem particularly shy. Actively foraging stay in or near dense vegetation with occasional quick movements into the open to get from bush to bush. Somewhat Orange-crowned Warbler or kinglet-like in terms of movement style and speed, but didn't do a lot of wing flicking. On 18 Dec 2014, it came it to a screech-owl mob call playback with a group of other birds (Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned Warblers, Palm Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, etc). On all occasions, the bird would occasionally call while it was not visible, although this could be difficult to hear and discern.

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*):

Creamy whitish-beige underparts, wrapping around the back of the eye. Crown, auriculars, and back uniformly grayish, almost bluish-gray. Eye dark and appears large on the head. Bill small, bluish-gray. Most distinctive feature was the chestnut rump, sometimes only barely visible under the folded wings.

Based on an examination of my and other photos of the bird, many of the greater coverts (the 7 or 8 outer coverts) are faintly white-tipped, contrasting against the medium and 2 or 3 inner greater coverts, suggesting a molt limit. The extent of the chestnut rump based on illustrations in Sibley's Guide, doesn't seem consistent with an HY/SY female.

16. Voice: soft, "chit" call, somewhat Wilson's Warbler-like but not as harsh or squeaky.

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

From Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by creamy underparts, shorter tail without extensive white outer tail feathers, and more "chubby" shape. From Ruby-crowned Kinglet by different "face" (lacking eye ring, for example) and lack of wing bars. From Orange-crowned Warbler again by different face, less pointed bill, less olive color overall, and lacking brighter yellow vent. Chestnut rump photographed is unique to Lucy's Warbler.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: None. A life bird.

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. Internet photos. Pyle Guide

to North American Birds vol 1.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	eBird notes submitted on the day of each observation
<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: 18 Jan 2015

Time: 8:30am



