

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach Xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*

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

Female, Adult

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

St. Martin Parish, Lake Martin in cypress groves off shore from levee at the northern end of Rookery Road. In vicinity of Ruth Canal parking area.

4. Date(s) when observed:

February 14, 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

9:00 AM – 10:40 AM

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner  
428 Hickory Hill Drive  
Boyce, LA 71409

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

Van Remsen, Mac Myers, Gary Pontiff, Matt Pontiff, Dave Patton and others.

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

Rob Dobbs and Marty Guidry

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

Seen in shade on sna. Good silhouette.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Dave Patton's Scope – Not familiar with brand.

11. Distance to bird(s):

Probably 150 yards.

12. Duration of Observation:

Bird seen/heard off and on from about 9:00 AM until 10:40 AM when I left.

13. Habitat:

Impounded cypress swamp. Bird located in permanently flooded cypress groves.

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

Bird was observed flying back and forth between perches across an area of about 400 yards parallel to the shore. Did not see the bird feeding. It moved several times in response to disturbances caused by a tour boat.

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):

I actually saw the bird in silhouette once for about 30 seconds. It was clearly a very large kingfisher with an inordinately long, robust bill. I would describe the bill as looking like a narrow bowie knife. I could not detect color, per se, but the belly was monotone supporting the color pattern of a female Ringed Kingfisher.

16. Voice:

Loud staccato rattle with no inflection in tone. Uttered when bird flew about, apparently as it departed a perch.

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

Belted Kingfisher – Larger, call distinctly different, and bill disproportionately large with very different shape.

18. Photos/Recordings:

None. Remsen and Myers took photos.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen/heard several times in Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

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

a. at time of observation:

BirdJam and Sibley's Field Guide.

b. after observation:

Kaufman's Lives of North American birds.

21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation (notes attached?);  notes made after the observation;  memory.

Lake Martin, LA 2-14-15. 9:00 AM CST – Ringed Kingfisher about 100 yds. Poor view. G & M Pontiff, M Myres, V. Remsen, D. Patton. 9:25 AM Posed on snag. Dropped. Huge bill. Silhouette. Hard just before DP found it on snag. 10:20 AM – calling saw flying. J. Trahan/C. Lyon. Heard again 10:40 AM.

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

Yes

23. Signature of reporter Jay V. Huner 2/14/15 7:55 PM.