

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Red-naped Sapsucker
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 female
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Peveto Woods Baton Rouge Audubon Society Sanctuary
4. Date(s) when observed: 1 November 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: mid afternoon
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. Conover, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): The bird was found by Carrina Williams on a Yellow Rails and Rice Field Trip.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): I believe the bird was also seen by Maggie MacPherson, Matt Brady, Ryan Terrill, Erik Enbody, Grace Sprehn, and another gent whose name I can't recall.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Light was OK, although weather was overcast and misty. Bird was evasive, though.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): not too far, maybe 20 yards at closest, but bird was using cover to its advantage.
12. Duration of observation: 1-2 minutes of knowing where it was, perhaps half of that in viewing time.
13. Habitat: Chenier woods. Bird was primarily using live oaks.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was skittish, flying from tree to tree. Seemed to be in loose group with a couple of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Even with multiple observers on the lookout, the bird was hard to locate.
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*):

A Yellow-bellied/Red-naped type sapsucker with red lower throat patch but white chin and upper throat, reddish patch on nape, and white on back restricted to two fairly discrete lines.

Head pattern typical of general pattern of this pair of sapsuckers: reddish crown bordered on sides and behind by black; solid black auriculars continuing to sides of nape; white supercilia beginning at eye and continuing back to join white central nape stripe; white moustachial strip running rearward and becoming mottled/fading into nape stripe or dorsal striping. Throat patch mostly bounded by black, formed by thick black malar stripe becoming diffuse below level of eye, i.e., border not solid on sides. Patch red (appears to be red tips to white feathers in photos) except for clean white chin. Nape reddish, appears to be red tips to white nape feathering in photos.

Back black, white barring confined mainly to two stripes. Area between white wing panel and dorsal stripes solidly and densely black.

White mottling on tertials, white barring on primaries, tail not seen well.

Eye dark, chisel-like bill black. Legs blackish.

16. Voice: Not noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Yellow-bellied Sapsucker eliminated by throat pattern. Hybrid YBSA x RNSA more of a problem, but there are no readily visible features that would point to hybrid instead of pure RNSA.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Carrina Williams, Ryan Terrill, and I all took photos, as did perhaps others present. Williams's are the clearest. Mine were shot at low speed and have blur.

19. Previous experience with this species: Not as great as I would like. I've studied this species out west on occasion, and have spent a great deal of time studying the ID of this pair and photos and videos of individuals.

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

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?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, mental
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------

		notes.
	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
	memory	
x	study of images	

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. This bird has the classic field marks of this species, and there are no obvious features that point to this being a hybrid. I personally have come to doubt the validity of the species separate from YBSA, but whatever taxon the form inhabits, it is separable in the field.

23. Date: 11/26/2015







