

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one immature male

3. Parish: Plaquemines
Specific Locality: woods below Ft. Jackson

4. Date(s) when observed: 29 December 2024

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1038

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: James W. Beck
City: Marrero
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mark Meunier, Joan Garvey, and Linda Kingsland

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): n/a, although we consulted David Muth, Paul Conover, Van Remsen, Steve Cardiff, Rob Dobbs, Dave Jasper (Portal, AZ), Jaymie Arnold (Santa Fe, NM), Barry Lyon (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours), et al.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): bird was foraging at low-mid canopy with vine tangles, so in and out of sunlight.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex Diamondbacks 8x42, few years old

11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 15-30 ft.

12. Duration of observation: maybe 3-5 minutes?

13. Habitat: hardwood bottomland forest, live oak dominant, hackberry, rattan and Vitis

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):. Bird was foraging quietly at low-mid canopy, working mid-sized diagonal branches and was at some point, joined by a YBSA.

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*): Mark found the bird and said (as many of us do), "Let's make sure it's not a red-naped.". No sooner than he said that, I noticed this bird had a heavy amount of red in the nape. Sapsucker with bright red throat with a broken/poorly delineated black malar, bordered by white, black through eye meets at the back of head, where they distinct red nape is infused with the white above the malar. Red forehead and crown broken up by black border over white supercilium. Back is black with two well-defined vertical rows of white scaly-looking feather columns, wings dark with bold white rump, white patches in wings and wing coverts. Barred tan underparts.

Supercilium narrows behind the eye, as opposed to broadening (typical YBSA).

16. Voice: n/a

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The supercilium narrowing behind the eye, the poorly defined black malar (absent in other parts, allowing more red to come through) suits RNSA better over YBSA, two white vertical columns down back, heavy dose of red on nape also seem more consistent with this species over YBSA (or introgression), after consulting with many others, some of which shared great publications (Mlodinow, Barry, Cox 2006), etc.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): yes, by me, Joan Garvey also obtained additional, much better quality photos.

19. Previous experience with this species: none

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Above mentioned colleagues were amazing with their advice, notes, and providing much appreciated i.d. resources.

Also National Geographic 7th Ed., Mlodinow, Barry, Cox 2006

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes, especially after the heavy consultation and education on proper i.d., and age

23. Date: 30 December 2024

Time: 1657

24. 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_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____yes_____























