

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 adult male
3. Parish:
Vermilion
4. Specific Locality:
Pecan Island - Behind Sacred Heart Church
5. Date(s) when observed: December 28, 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:45-12:47
7. Reporting observer: Phillip Wallace
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Dave Patton (discovered), Brad Moon
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None that I know of.
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Adequate light. In shade on trunk of Live Oaks; observers looking north and northwest with the sun to the south.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 10x42 Diamondback binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 20-30 ft
13. Duration of observation: 2 minutes
14. Habitat: Edge of mixed woods and cane
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird came in to E Screech Owl mob recording. Perched on trunk and large limbs. Also responded to RNSA recording.

16. 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):

Sapsucker similar to YBSA but with a conspicuous red spot on the back of the head. Red throat patch not bordered by black on the sides. Two white vertical streaks on back separated by a black streak.

17. Voice: None

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

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker usually without red on the nape or less extensive red than on this individual. Amount of red on the throat and the absence of a black border on the sides of the throat is characteristic of adult male Red-naped. The fairly distinct white stripes on the back separated by a black stripe is good for Red-naped.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photos by Wallace included with this report. Also photos by Patton and Moon.

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen several times and west and twice in LA.

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

Checked Sibley and eBird.

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Marginal individuals, not to mention hybrids, can be difficult to separate from Yellow-bellied, but this is about as good as it gets for a male Red-naped.

24. Date report completed:

January 9, 2026

25. 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

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

Yes



















