

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographys, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ^(varius) nuchalis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): ONE, in adult-type plumage, ♂
3. Locality: Louisiana: _____ Parish: _____
please refer to Dave Patton's farm for location
4. Date(s) when seen: Jan 3, Jan ?, Jan 13 '93.
5. Times of day when seen: mid morning / midday
6. Reporting observer and address: PAUL CONOVER, 919 W Pinhook, LAFAYETTE, LA 70503
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
 DAVE PATTON, GARY BROUSSARD
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Jan 3: overcast, ambient light good.
 Jan 13: sunny, noon time sun, excellent in terms of lighting up bird.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
 SWIFT 9x5 & KOWATSN-2 hooked to Sony 8mm camcorder.
11. Distance to bird: 20 ft → 100 ft. Dave lists a greater distance, but I've reexamined site & it's 20 ft!
12. Duration of observation: Jan 3: 2-3 minutes? Jan 13: 5 minutes?
13. Habitat (general and specific): PRAIRIE TERRACE intersect by Indian Bayou & its spoil bank. Wooded fairly heavily w/ mature *Celtis*, *Quercus* (*niger* & *virginiana*) & *Carya*.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Responded to E. Screech Owl tape Jan 3, later grew immune to it. ...
 Seen feeding, resting, & hiding in LIVE OAKS.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
 Bird boldly patterned black, red, white & yellow.
 Crown red, with black margin at rear.
 Auricular patch deep black, with this black (past auriculars proper black somewhat mixed w/white) continuing down sides of nape (extreme lateral edges of ^{lower} nape) to back.
 White superciliary line beginning narrowly about mid-eye, broadening & continuing below base of crown & connecting on the nape, but w/ reddish patch obscuring the white on dorsal mid-line. Reddish nape patch distinct, blurring on edges.
 White subauricular stripe extending down from white nasal tufts, between extended black auricular stripe dorsally & marked throat area ventrally.
 Chin and throat red, as in crown, bordered below by thick glossy black stripe running laterally across upper breast. Breast stripe w/ definite, clear cut end points, not deviating anteriorly to form border to throat. The central area of the upper breast / lower
 OVER →

throat border was...
Black malar stripe thickest at origin, bordering red of chin laterally, then tapering and fading into red on upper throat border. Lateral border of throat from this point to black breast stripe formed by extension of red of throat directly against white of subauricular stripe. Border of red/white fairly clear-cut, but w/a slight jagged fringe.

Breast below lateral black streak bright light yellow, sides dusky (black streaks or chevrons on lighter breast feathering)

Mantle deep black, with continuation of mantle color anteriorly as a thin blackish stripe along dorsal centerline of nape, fading into red of upper nape.

Black of mantle separating (widely) two ~~discrete~~ discrete white stripes running most (at least) of length of back. These white stripes originating as posterior extensions from the white supercilia/nape area, continuing narrowly as lateral borders of the black dorsal stripe of the lower nape, then growing more widely separated around mantle & finally beginning to converge again towards lower back. These white stripes punctuated at regular intervals by narrow black streaks or chevrons. Black streaks about $\frac{1}{2}$ length (in longitudinal plane) of white areas they interrupt. (Stripes appeared confined to scapular regions. On upper back, area between stripes black or nearly wholly so.)

White stripes obscured on lower back by white on tertials. Tertials appeared mostly black, (though pattern of white wasn't clearly seen). OVER →

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

S. varius extremely similar; indeed, for every character used to distinguish these two (sub)species I have found mentions of overlap. However, the combination of back pattern & throat pattern in conjunction w/ nape color (probably most variable & least valuable distinguishing character) seems to indicate nuchalis. Also, the bird seemed darker overall, with large dark areas between dorsal stripes & chin again between wing stripe & dorsal stripe. On most Yellow-bellieds I've seen, the sole dark areas are

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

VIDEOTAPED by me & by Gary Broussard. Enclosed.

19. Previous experience with this species: 2 ♀, one with only chin white, in Big Bend in winter, 1992 (Jan)

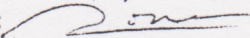
20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

- a) at time of observation; none - about an hour later, & after I'd made sketches I looked in Geo Guide, which was less than informative.
- b) after observation: Oberholser, Bent, Ridgway, Howell (Condor 54:239-241),

21. This description written from: ☒ notes made during observation; ☒ notes made after observation; ☒ memory. +VIDEOTAPE

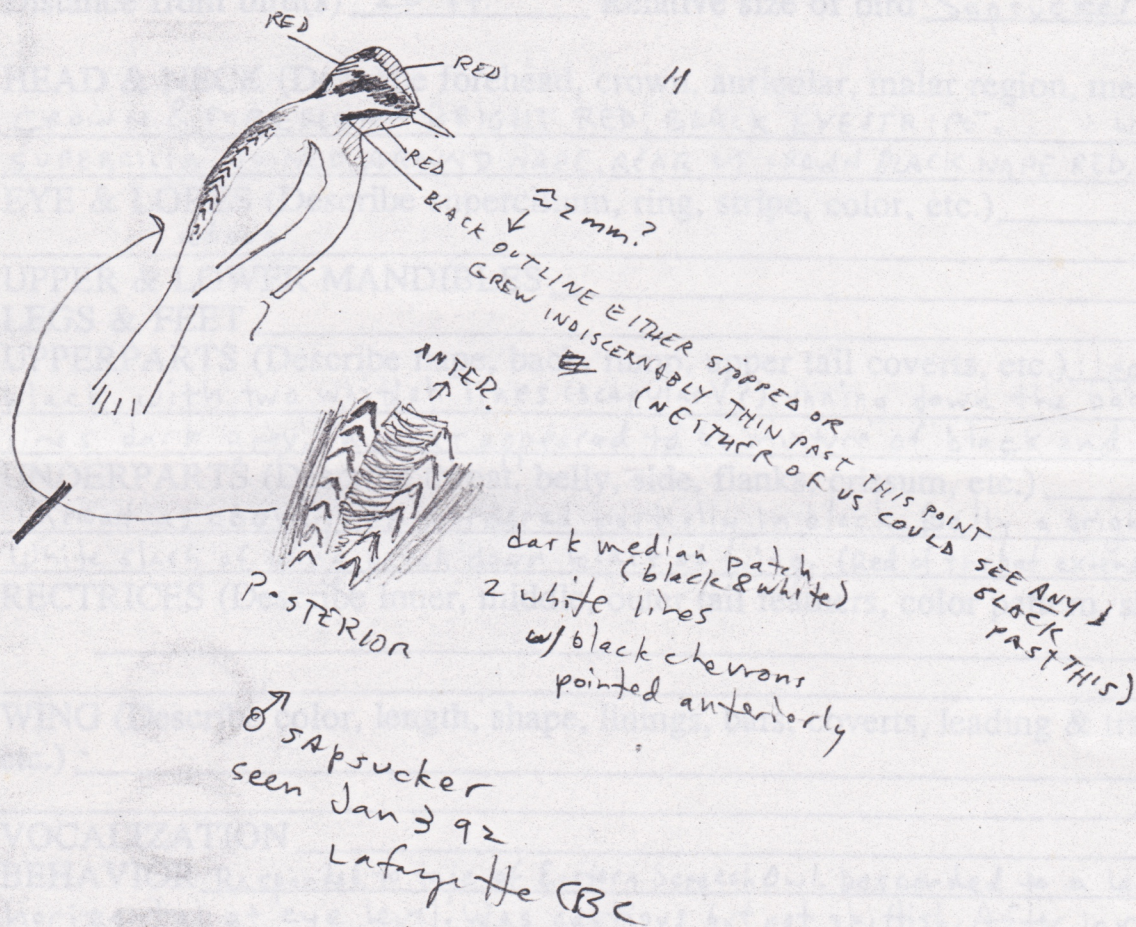
22. Are you positive of your identification? _____. If not, explain:

Given aberration & possibility of hybridization in & between S. varius & S. nuchalis, I cannot answer this question one way or another w/ certainty. I think that Red-naped Sapsucker is the best possibility.

23. Signature of reporter: 

24. Date and time of writing this account:

Feb '93



DRAWING made on day of
CBC, before consulting
field guide.

please see discussion of throat & other
drawing of throat on CBC details sheet. (page RNS V)

93-09c ALSO SEE OVER →
EXCUSE ERASURES. I TOOK PAINS TO TRY TO BE PRECISE.

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES/HIGH NUMBERS

CBC Name Lafayette Date Jan. 3, '93 Compiler Fontenot/WHELAN
Observer writing this account & date PAUL CONOVER, Jan. 3, '93.

SPECIES Red-naped Sapsucker NUMBER, AGE, SEX 1 adult male
Distance from bird(s) 20 ft. Relative size of bird Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)

CROWN & FOREHEAD BRIGHT RED; BLACK EYESTRIPE. WITH WHITE

SUPERCILIA JOINED AROUND NAPE. REAR OF CROWN BLACK. NAPE RED, ON WHITE OF →

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) above

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES _____

LEGS & FEET _____

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.) Upperparts

black, with two whitish lines (scapular-V?) running down the back. Area between
lines dark grey, in what appeared to be mixture of black and white feathering.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.) _____

Throat as above, red bordered partially in black. Belly a bright light yellow.
White slash of wing patch down black of wing. (Red of throat extending to base/lower

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.) mand.)

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading & trailing edges, etc.) _____

VOCALIZATION _____

BEHAVIOR Responded to tape of Eastern Screech Owl. Descended to a level just above
horizontal at eye level. Was cautious but not skittish. After investigating
tape, flew to an adjacent tree where it climbed and perched. Flew off
through trees.

Date of observation Jan. 3, '93 Time mid-morning Weather Mild Sky Medium to Bright overcast

Duration of observation several minutes Bird - Sun orientation Good AMBIENT LIGHT

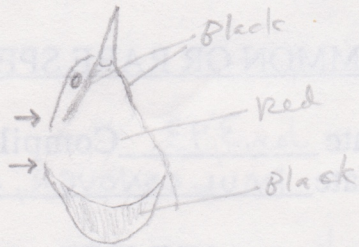
Exact location _____

Habitat TREE LINE Other observers Dave Patton

Optical equipment 9x42 Swift

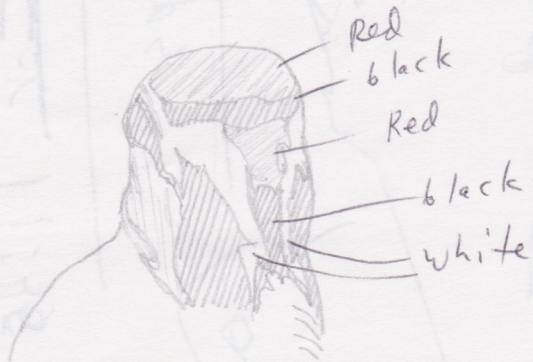
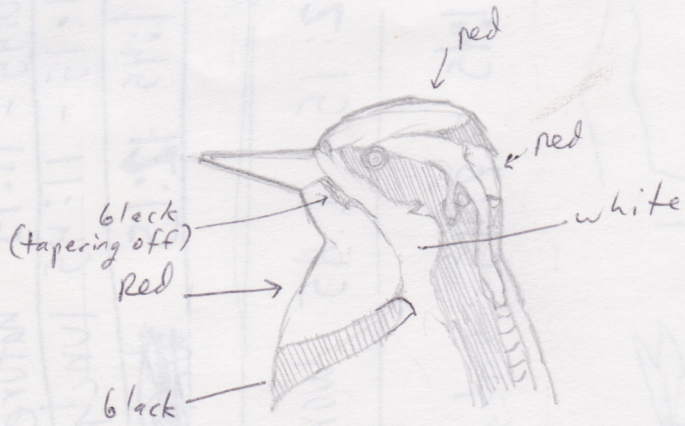
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Dave alerted me to bird. Knowing that Yellow-bellied &
Red-Naped Sapsuckers can hybridize, and that there are aberrant "Red-naped"
Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, I tried to memorize what I took to be

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE MOST HELPFUL
the most useful markings. I knew what to look for in the area of the throat
(completeness vs. incompleteness of black border), but as for the back, I did not
and still really do not know what look for in terms of pattern of scapulars
and back. I can find no photo or illustration of the back of a Red-naped.
(good)



HEAD & NECK: extended supercilia. Black malar stripe as above. The sketch I made after the sighting is out of proportion. The black extended from lower mandible towards the lower black border of throat, but thinned and appeared to die out about one-half of the way to the angle of the throat patch. The outer border of the patch from that point down to the lower border of throat appeared to be a continuation of the bright red of the throat against the white of the lower nuchae.

UPPER PARTS: A series of dark chevrons running down either whitish stripe. Apices of chevrons pointing towards anterior. Dark of median area not as dark as area (black) outside of scapulars.



back of head



11

~2mm?

BLACK OUTLINE EITHER STOPPED OR
GREW INDISCERNABLY THIN PAST THIS POINT
(NEITHER OF US COULD

SEE ANY
BLACK
PAST THIS)

dark median patch
(black & white)
2 white lines
w/ black chevrons
pointed anteriorly

♂ sapsucker
seen Jan 3 92
Lafayette CBC