

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: Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 male, possibly first winter
3. Locality: Parish: Lafayette Parish
Specific Locality: 2.5 mi WSW Youngsville, private residence near Savoy x Verot School Rd.
4. Date(s) when observed: 21 Feb 2014
5. Time(s) of day when observed: twice between 8:00 and 9:00am
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): homeowner Jennifer LaRive-Rowland, Van Remsen, Dave Patton. Bill LaRive-Rowland (the husband) was present during my visit and said the bird first appeared around Feb 12.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): mid-morning light at 90° relative to observer and bird. Bird in mixed light and shadows.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars (good condition), Nikon D7000 DSLR with Nikon 105mm f2.8 lens (good condition). Big lens was in the shop.
11. Distance to bird(s): about 25 meters

12. Duration of observation: Twice, each time for about 2 minutes

13. Habitat: Residential yard with feeders with adjacent scrubby forest patch

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Visited feeders twice, presumably eating millet. I was watching from inside the house through large windows that oversaw the back yard. There were two sets of feeders, one directly east of the house about 15 meters away and the other NE of the house about 25 meters away. The bird was only seen coming to the NE feeders. It was jittery, but each time stayed for a couple minutes before other bird activity appeared to have scared it off. Both times it was feeding providing back and side looks.

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): Male in winter plumage. Bright blue face and chest with orange breast and white belly and undertail. Brownish with blue tinge and lightly streaked on crown and back. Bright blue rump and bluish tail. The fact that the upperparts were not strongly blue, and with considerable brown suggested it was a 1st wintering bird.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Clearly not Eastern Bluebird by bill shape, wing bars, and brownish back. Only possibility would be hybrid Indigo x Lazuli, but the bird showed no signs of hybridization like blue in the lower parts of the chest or belly obscuring the orange and white markings of a typical Lazuli. Upper wing bar (along median coverts) was bold and white with a second buffy and paler wing bar below (along margins of greater coverts), again appearing typical for Lazuli.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by me (see below).

19. Previous experience with this species: None – this is a life-bird. Never knowingly have seen a hybrid Indigo x Lazuli, either.

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

a. at time of observation: Audubon Guides iPhone app.

b. after observation: National Geographic 3rd Ed., Sibley Guide to N.A., Pyle (1997),

internet photos

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date: On morning of 21 Feb 2014, I entered basic description into eBird based on mental notes I took during observation, but was thinking it was an adult male at the time – with some more research, I now think it's a 1st winter male); memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes.

23. Date: 28 Feb 2014 Time: 11:35am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? yes

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

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