

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
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:

Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One - female

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Washington Parish, 407 CC Road, Franklinton, LA 70438 – At truck entrance/exit of Barriere Construction Company.

4. Date(s) when observed:

January 25, 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

9:20-9:35 AM CST

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner  
428 Hickory Hill Drive  
Boyce, LA 71409

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

Casey Wright and company were present and viewing the bird when I arrived.

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

Many individuals – initially Janine Robin. Later same day – Charles Lyon.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Looking easterly when saw bird at about 150 feet but then got even with bird and it flew from utility line on the westerly side of the road to a barbed wire fence opposite at eye level. Clear view without need for binoculars.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Zeiss 10 x 42 binoculars – good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

Initially about 150 feet then within 20 feet. Later about 20 feet when it flew from view.

12. Duration of Observation:

Observed for several minutes at 9:20 AM and later for about a minute at 9:35 AM.

13. Habitat:

Pine plantation – 25-30 ft trees - on westerly side of road and construction company on easterly side of road.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observations (flying, feeding, resting; including and stress habits in identification: relate events surrounding observation):

Bird observed on utility wire about 30 ft above road. It then flew down to base of barbed wire fence on opposite side of road presumably chasing prey. Then bird flew to top of fence landing on metal post. Later, when I was leaving, it was on the top of the barbed wire fence. It flew up and over the utility wire on the opposite side of the road and flew out of sight over a dense pine plantation section.

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):

Small song bird. Overall grayish blue body. Flight feathers blue. Partial white eye ring.

16. Voice:

Silent.

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

Perhaps female Eastern Bluebird but no orange color on breast.

18. Photos/Recordings:

None. Photos taken by Casey Wright.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Found in Colorado in 2006. Also found a female Mountain Bluebird at Grand Isle, LA in 2011.

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

- a. at time of observation: Sibley Field Guide.
- b. after observation: National Geographic Field Guide and Peterson Field Guide.

21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation (notes attached?);  notes made after the observation;  memory.

9:20 AM CC Road Washington Parish, LA Female Mountain Bluebird. Very pale bluish gray. Blue wings. Observed on wire on w side of road. Flew to ground then flew up and over to east side of road and landed on metal fenepost. At truck entrance/exit to Barrier [sic] Bros Construction. Photos taken by Casey Wright. Viewed about 2 minutes. CW said had to wait 20 min. for bird. As left at 9:35 AM flew from fence on east side of road to west over road into copse of pine.

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

Yes.

23. Signature of reporter Jay V. Huner