## LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION

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**Species:** Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides* 

Location: Hwy 16 at CC Road (just NE of Par Rd 133), Washington Parish, Louisiana

**Date:** 17 January 2015

Age and sex: female/immature

Molt status: Unknown

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: Jessica Oswald, Ryan Terrill, Matt Brady, Genevieve Mount,.

**Circumstances:** Searched for the continuing Mountain Bluebird. After some searching on Par Road 133, we were successful more to the northeast along Hwy 16, but the views were distant. Seen at a distance of 400-500 meters through a spotting scope. Overall, a pleasant afternoon outing, not too chilly, and partly sunny. Ryan got an awful photo, which he put on Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/21276444@N00/16293089246/

**Description:** A stocky flycatcher-like bird with a distinctive upright posture, perched on a distance fence post. Visible field marks were few at this distance, but we were able to note a long primary projection, that the upperparts were light blue and grayish, and pale grayish-blue underparts.

**Discussion:** Although we had poor views and the bird was distant, it was clearly identifiable as a Mountain Bluebird. The upright posture and long primary projection created a distinctive structure that is quite different from the stocky structure of an Eastern Bluebird. This bird also clearly lacked any reddish below, which would be visible on an Eastern Bluebird. According to eBird reports, the bird was present until at least 13 February 2015.