

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Mountain bluebird
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One IM female
3. Locality: Parish: Washington
Specific Locality: Dummyline road also called CC road, ¼ mile south of where it intersects with Bethel rd. On the southern border of the large asphalt plant.
4. Date(s) when observed: 12/14/2014,12/18,12/20,1/02/15,1/10,1/17,1/24,1/29,2/05 and last date that I saw it was 2/13/15.
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Different times of day; 9AM,10:30AM,11:45AM, 2PM and 2:45PM.
6. Reporting observer and address: Janine Robin 13083 Blackwell Lane, Franklinton, LA 70438
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mary Mehaffey, Claire Thomas, Glenn Ousset, Joan Garvey, Michael Plauche and Tom Trenchard.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Rosemary Seidler, Casey Wright, Ed Wallace, Michael Bernard, Jim Geisler, Jody Shugart, Robb Brumfield, Wanda Beelman, William Matthews, Jay Huner, Charlie Lyons, Matt Brady, Bill Baddley, Michael Plauche, Ken Harris, Joelle Finley, Dan O'Malley, Lewis Cartee, Mitch Overby, Robb Dobbs and Cecil Tarver.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright blue sky, full sunshine. Bird was above me on utility wire, so lighting wasn't the best. Most days were a bit overcast, a few days were sunny. On occasions, the bird was on a fence which made it easy to photograph with no shadows.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Steiner nocs 8x42 and Canon Rebel T3i with Sigma DG 70-300mm lens
11. Distance to bird(s): 15 to 20 ft
12. Duration of observation: Ranging from 2 minutes to 10 minutes. Often she was still

there when I drove off.

13. Habitat: pastureland bordered by thick woods. Exact spot was in front of an asphalt plant.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was perched on utility wire that spanned across the road. It did not seem alarmed by my car. It was watching 4 Palm warblers below as they hunted for food. I had never seen a MOBL before, but what I saw (shape of head and body shape) made me think "bluebird". Other visits were about the same. Bird not alarmed by cars or people. Was seen preening, feeding and just perched.

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): bluebird size (comparing to the very familiar EABL). The shape and stance of the bird appeared to be bluebird-like. Plumage characteristics were unfamiliar to me, but again it gave the appearance of a bluebird. Eying was slight, thin. Bill looked a bit thicker than EABL. When I took the pictures, I could not see the blue on it's tail and primaries. Only after I downloaded the pictures could I see the blue and also the slight pinkish color on it's throat. As the days went into weeks, I could see more pink color on her throat area.

16. Voice: Silent. I never heard it make a sound. Jody Shugart said he heard it singing.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No rusty color on breast or the darker blue of an EABL.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes. Photos by Janine Robin. Will be sent to Conover.

19. Previous experience with this species: None

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Photos, Kaufman and Natl Geo field guides and confirmation from Van Remsen.

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?); _____notes made after the observation (date:_____); Yes

memory.

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

23. Date: 6/11/15 Time: 10:18pm

