

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

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. Parish: Iberville

Specific Locality: Manchac Road, ca 0.5 mi. E of Pecan Drive

4. Date(s) when observed: 5 January 2023 during the Baton Rouge CBC
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 3:40 – 4:00 PM; first spotted by SWC.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel, LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): other birders chased it next day or two; successful were J. V. Remsen, M. McClindon, D. F. Lane, and R. T. Brumfield with eBird reports from both Iberville and East Baton Rouge parishes and additional photos.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good, but glare was bad and it was difficult to get bird close enough and in good lighting for photos.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica binos 10 X 40 & 10 X 50, and Kowa scope with zoom eyepiece.

11. Distance to bird(s): remained fairly distant during observation as it fed in a field, closest was maybe 75-100 feet.

12. Duration of observation: about 20 minutes

13. Habitat: patch of semi-overgrown cattle pasture (along south side of Manchac Road in between Bayou Manchac and deciduous forest farther to south) with scattered chinese tallow, other shrubs and scattered small trees.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): using small trees and shrubs as perch to sally for insects or to the ground in company of Yellow-rumped Warblers, a few Eastern Bluebirds, and Eastern Phoebe; also seen to fly to tall trees at east edge of pasture with Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings but then returned to short trees and shrubs in field to forage.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): a bluebird with upright posture and dull muted plumage coloration; we were initially struck by long-winged look with wingtips extending beyond half way to the tail tip; blue in tail, brownish-gray upperparts, including back and head; rump blue-gray, wings darker with pale feather edges, pale buffy white eyering, whitish throat and belly and undertail coverts separated by buffy-brownish/hint of rust chest band; eye dark, bill, legs, feet black. Calling this a female as HY/SY male should have more blue by this time of year. Our eBird list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S125636555>

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Bluebird is more colorful, generally has a more 'hunched' posture, and has a shorter wing projection.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): DLD (two attached); photos taken by others on 6 and 9 January are better: see: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S125491849>.

19. Previous experience with this species: both observers familiar with this species in the West and separating this species from both Eastern and Western bluebirds.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
none

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images (photos by DLD)		

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

23. Date: 14 February 2023

Time: 10 AM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

_____yes_____

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

