

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Pyrrhuloxia, *Cardinalis sinuatus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 female
3. Parish: Jefferson Davis
Specific Locality: Wild Road ca. 7.3 mi S of I-10 in Jennings, and .8 mi E of Hwy 99.
4. Date(s) when observed: 19, 22, and 26 Dec. 2015.
5. Time(s) of day when observed: mid-day, early morning, mid-day
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. Conover, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): several. None on 19 Dec.; Dobbs, Myers, Patton, Remsen on 22 Dec., Lyon on 26 Dec.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): This bird was initially found, identified, and reported by Dan O'Malley.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): From full sun to foggy morning. Excellent to adequate.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 w/200 mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): At closest probably 15-20 feet.
12. Duration of observation: off and on over a period of about an hour at longest observation, but total viewing time probably about 10 minutes
13. Habitat: small wooded ridge and roadside adjacent to ricefields on south, bottomland woods to N, with a couple of wooded canals running through the area.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): On first sighting, I pushed up the bird in oak trees, and snapped photos without getting a chance to with binoculars. On 22 Dec., group viewed the bird feeding along the roadside on a grass subsequently identified as itchgrass, *Rottboellia cochinchinensis*, weighing the grass down with the weight of the bird's body then feeding on the seedheads. The bird and the cardinals it was associated with moved slowly down the road until reaching a wooded canal and flying out of sight down the canal levee.

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 medium-sized bird resembling but slightly less chunky than Northern Cardinal, with a long, thin, tufted crest. Overall the bird was pale and warm-colored, warm grayish brown on breast, slightly grayer on head, with a medium-dark red ring around eye, slender below the eye, broader above. Cardinal-like dark mask around eye in rear, narrowly above and below eye, continuing to base of upper and lower mandibles. Tip of crest same red color as around eye. Reddish flight feathers in wings and tail—exact pattern never seen well. Bill like cardinal but with more strongly curved culmen, cutting edge of bill more strongly curved, somewhat dull dusky yellow with duskier smudge saddling culmen and on sides of lower mandible.

16. Voice: Not noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Clearly different from Northern Cardinal, both in color scheme and morphology. All features consistent with Pyrrhuloxia.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen this species in several places in the SW over the years, but no great studies recently.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	no, mental
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 9/8/2016