

# 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): One female
3. Locality: Parish: \_\_Jefferson Davis\_\_\_\_\_
- Specific Locality: \_\_Wild Road, 0.8-1.1 mi east of LA-99\_\_\_\_\_
4. Date(s) when observed: 22 December 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: approx. 0750-0850 CST
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dave Patton, Mac Myers, Paul Conover, Van Remsen, and Marty Guidry
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Dan O'Malley (who discovered the bird during Lacassine-Thornwell CBC, 18 Dec 2015), Jay Huner, et al.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Soft and even, but relatively dim light due to overcast sky and thick fog
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 20 m
12. Duration of observation: approx. 1 hour
13. Habitat: roadside right-of-way w/ thick, tall grass and scrubby tree-lined fenceline
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Foraging, typically in vicinity of Northern Cardinals
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):

Medium-sized passerine generally similar to Northern Cardinal (NOCA) in plumage, size, structure, and cardinal/grosbeak-like bill. Grayish back and head, warmer grayish-brown breast and belly with small amount of reddish in breast. Long, pointy crest.

16. Voice: “tink” calls heard on one occasion, superficially similar to NOCA, but softer, higher-pitched and with more metallic quality

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Female Northern Cardinal (NOCA) only candidate for confusion, eliminated by pale/horn-colored bill with strongly curved/rounded culmen (opposed to reddish [adult] or blackish [juv] color and typical “grosbeak”-shaped bill of NOCA). Plumage distinctly gray – more so than female NOCA overall – with red generally confined to flight feathers (but fog/lighting may have affected color interpretation). Crest longer/pointier than NOCA; tail seemingly longer/thinner than NOCA.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive; very familiar with the species in Texas, Arizona, etc.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: None

21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_notes attached?); \_\_\_\_notes made after the observation (date:\_\_\_\_); \_\_\_\_memory;  photos taken during observation.

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

23. Date: 2 January 2016 Time: 1300 CST

