

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: Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuata*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one female
3. Parish: Jefferson Davis
Specific Locality: Wild Road, ca 0.5 mi. E of Hwy. 99
4. Date(s) when observed: 18 December 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca **10:30 AM**
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dan O'Malley (found bird).
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): many observers successfully chased the bird from 20 December to at least 31 December 2015.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): clear, sun at our backs and bird to our NW in good light.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 40 & 10 x 50 Leica binoculars.
11. Distance to bird(s): about 50 feet.
12. Duration of observation: about 1 minute or less.

13. Habitat: row of medium height water oaks and other brush/small trees paralleling N side of Wild Road. South of the road is open farmland and hedgerows, and there is some tall (Johnson?) grass along the shoulders of the road. This is basically the south edge of the Bayou Chene riparian zone.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): During the Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC, we received a text with a photo from O'Malley that asked "*confirm or deny*", alerting us that he had just found and photographed a female Pyrrhuloxia. We were covering the Thornwell area adjacent to and south of O'Malley's area. By coincidence we were near the north edge of our territory at Hwy. 99 X Niblett Road, so we zoomed to O'Malley's location and were there within a few minutes. O'Malley had lost track of the bird, but he coaxed it back into view with some playback of Pyrrhuloxia chip notes. The bird was by itself and popped out onto the sunny side of a water oak, about 20 feet above ground. The bird was partially obscured by foliage but we had decent looks and Dittmann got a few marginal photos. The bird then flew down and to the right and we lost it. Having seen the bird and knowing that O'Malley had obtained good photos, we departed back to our CBC area after a few minutes.

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*): See photos next page. Better photos obtained by O'Malley, and others on subsequent days. The bird was similar in size and shape to a Northern Cardinal, but was- 1) overall grayer on the head and upper parts; 2) had a thinner, longer, more erect and more attenuated crest with reddish tinge towards the tip; 3) a much stubbier bill with a sharply decurved upper mandible; 4) bill color dull pale horn instead of red-orange; and 5) had a small red arc above the eye and a reddish patch at the base of the primaries. The bird's under parts were uniform grayish buff, and the legs and feet were grayish horn. We did not have great views of the rump/tail.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Northern Cardinal is only contender (eliminated above).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): DLD; best two (see next page) that show field marks: red crest, around eye, in wings. Much better photos were obtained by O'Malley prior to our arrival and by others on subsequent days.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in southwestern USA (and Northern Mexico-SWC), as recently as August 2014, September 2015, and late November 2015 in

west TX.



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:

<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		

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

23. Date: 6 January 2016

Time: 11:30 AM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? YES

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

Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff