

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 female-type in unknown (after-juvenile) plumage
3. Locality: Parish: Vermilion
Specific Locality: 16.4 mi ESE of Pecan Island, Chenier au Tigre, Paul J. Rainey Audubon Sanctuary, LA
4. Date(s) when observed: 4 Feb 2012
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:30am
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Melanie Driscoll spotted the bird, David J. Ringer and I then saw the bird.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none known.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): foggy, seen in even understory light and then more backlit as it moved up in the subcanopy.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, Nikon D100 camera with 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 ED lens
11. Distance to bird(s): 8-15 meters
12. Duration of observation: 5 minutes

13. Habitat: live oak chenier in view of salt marsh and beach dunes

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): found by pishing and screech-owl imitations, responded silently, but clearly agitated approaching observers

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):

Clearly a "Rufous-sided" Towhee with heavy white spotting on wing coverts and back. Iris dark (brick-reddish), dark chocolate brown (unlike paler warm tones of Eastern Towhee).

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Towhee eliminated by extensive white spotting on wing coverts and back and lack of white mark at base of outer primaries.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by EIJ and DJR.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/115026760334011394048/Rarities#5708437385823889522>
<https://picasaweb.google.com/115026760334011394048/Rarities#5708437378942956306>

19. Previous experience with this species: David Ringer probably with the most experience; I've seen several times in LA and a few times out west. Collectively, we have much more experience with Eastern Towhee and this bird was quite obviously different.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Sibley Guide to Birds of North America

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

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

23. Date: 12 Feb 2012 Time: 8:35pm



