

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: **Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One adult of unknown sex.

3. Locality: Parish:
Acadia Parish: West side Leger Road, 0.5 mi S Mark Twain Road

Specific Locality:
On Google Earth, see triangular wooded patch on west side of Leger Road. Bird was in NE corner of patch at road.

4. Date(s) when observed:
30 November 2011
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
0830, and again at 1400
6. Reporting observer and address:
Michael A. Seymour, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Beau Gregory, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Full sun (sometimes partially shaded by a live oak), dappled light, clear conditions.

Bird was front lit and side lit at times.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Vortex 6.5x32mm binoculars (brand new); photos and video by Canon S5IS (excellent condition)

11. Distance to bird(s):

20 to 50 feet

12. Duration of observation:

Approximately twenty minutes, but bird in view only seconds at a time during that span

13. Habitat:

Roadside patch of scrub and live oaks in matrix of rice fields

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Bird first responded to pishing, but quickly retreated to underbrush. Coaxed bird back out (during morning session) with playback of song/call of GTTO. Bird "mewed" incessantly in response to playback. In the afternoon, the bird would not respond to any playback or pishing, but did sit and preen in the "open" inside the underbrush. I initially pulled over to the patch thinking that if I was going to see a GTTO, this would be the place! There have been multiple reports in La. this season.

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):

Large, skulky, sparrow with brilliant rufous cap, gleaming white throat offset by gray breast, and bright green flight feathers in wings and tail. Mewed frequently and responded to playback of GTTO.

16. Voice:

Only vocalization was "mew" call, which was given several times.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Combination of above characters eliminate all other US bird species.

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

Yes, obtained by me. Photo and video attached are "courtesy Michael A. Seymour/Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries."

19. Previous experience with this species:

None.

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

None.

a. at time of observation: **N/A**

b. after observation: **N/A**

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____notes attached?); _____notes made after the observation (date:_____); **X** memory; **X** photographs and videos.

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

Yes.

23. Date: **1 December 2011** Time: **0938**

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**

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