

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 bird, unknown sex and age.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Jefferson Davis Parish
Specific Locality: West Niblett Rd 3.2 miles from Hwy 99; 8.6 miles SSW of Welsh, LA.
30° 7'8.86"N; 92°52'29.71"W
4. Date(s) when observed:
12/16/2011
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
1:46 to 1:56pm (time photos were taken)
6. Reporting observer and address:
Walker Wilson
1917 East Eagle Street
Zachary, LA 70791
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Bill Fontenot
Chris Brantley
Jeff Harris
Kevin Morgan
Molly Richard
Bill Vermillion
Jacob Saucier
Heather Mancuso
Patty Holland
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
I'm not sure. Bill F., Bill V., Molly and Patty already found the bird before the rest of us got there. We all heard it when it vocalized, but I don't know if you could say we independently IDed it since we were told it was around when we arrived.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
It was overcast, so the light was diffused to the point where there were no shadows. The

level of light was moderate, so we had no problem seeing, but there was no direct light.

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

Swarovski SLC 10x42 in good condition; Canon 5D Mk II with Canon EF 100-400 f 4.5-5.6L IS USM lens.

11. Distance to bird(s):

20-30 yds

12. Duration of observation: Approx. 10 min.

13. Habitat:

The bird was in low brush initially, but perched high in some deciduous trees on the side of the road when recordings of GTTO were played. Mostly, it stayed in the thick understory of Chinese privet and greenbriers.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird came in response to tape. We heard it first, then we saw it in the underbrush. It flew up to the canopy for a minute or so, then returned to the underbrush. The bird also had been observed for some time prior to our arrival. It responded to recordings, hung around for about 10 minutes, then disappeared into the underbrush.

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):

The crown was reddish-brown. The maxilla and feet appeared grey, while the mandible was blue-grey. The forehead, lores and malar were black. The eyes appeared brown. The chin, throat and submustachial stripe were white. The body was mostly bluish-grey with green in the wings and tail. The back, parts of the wings and distal portion of the tail were grey.

16. Voice:

This bird made a few of the "Me-yew" vocalizations in response to the tape.

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

This bird was a large sparrow-sized bird. The reddish-brown crown and green parts of the wings and tail eliminate other towhees. The size and vocalization eliminated Olive Sparrow. The relatively dull green and lack of yellow eliminated Green Jay.

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

Others may have photographed it before I got there, but after I arrived, I was the only one who took pictures. I will attach the photos.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have no previous experience with this species.

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

a. at time of observation:

All observers present agreed on the ID.

b. after observation:

I referenced my photographs from that day, Sibley's, www.xeno-canto.org, and other web sites.

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____); X memory. I also referenced my photographs.

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

Yes

23. Signature of reporter:  Date: 12/17/11 Time: 1:03 pm

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