

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Rock Wren - *Salpinctes obsoletus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Vermillion
4. Specific Locality:
Liberty Farm x N Halloway Rds
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/14/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: mid day, a bit after noon
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Van Remsen - also with Crystal Johnson, Marybeth Lima, Michele McLindon, and KL Vinay
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
chased by various other people
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Varied depending on where it was sitting, ranging from rather backlit to excellent
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): Came quite close, within 2 meters
13. Duration of observation: I don't remember exactly, but rather lengthy, at least 10-20 min; the bird was still sitting around when we left
14. Habitat: A yard in rice fields, with a good amount of old tires, vehicles, and other man-made objects in it. Across the road was a storage unit, with a small amount of scrub on the side.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First seen in a tire, moved around a fair amount while we watched it

16. 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):

Rather large for a wren, with proportionally fairly short tail (again, by standards of a wren), and rather chunky. Wings extended about a third of the way down the tail. Fairly standard thin slightly decurved wren bill, black with a pale pinkish base. Overall coloration sandy brown, slightly darker on the wings, neck, and tail, as well as top of head. Light orange around base of legs, extending up to the lower flanks and a little onto the breast, though notably paler the farther from the legs. Throat, cheek, and under tail more white than anywhere else on bird. Also a few dark bands on under tail. Wings and tail barred with dull black, with a few white spots on the scapulars. Distinct orange-tan supercillium, dark lores and eye, grey legs.

17. Voice: Did to vocalize

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

Carolina and Bewick's Wren are very different structurally, with much longer tails, and also much richer brown coloration. The same is true of House and Winter Wrens, which are also much smaller. No real identification concerns for experienced observers at close range

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

yes, a number of photos attached - Van also has some on eBird

20. Previous experience with this species: seen many times in the west

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

none

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

12/15/23

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

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

Yes









