

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 male
3. Locality: Lafayette, Lafayette Parish  
Specific Locality: Oakridge Dr.
4. Date(s) when observed: 02/11/2019
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 4:20 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): I believe only I saw the bird that evening
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Identified by Kathleen O' Shaughnessy and Chuck Broussard a day or so before. Subsequently a number of birders located it.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Afternoon shade, sufficient light
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens
11. Distance to bird(s): About 5 yards
12. Duration of observation: Ca. 1-2 minutes
13. Habitat: Thick urban hedge with mix of tall native trees, thick exotic shrubs, and mixed low growth
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: Kathleen had reported the bird earlier and given me permission to bird the yard. I arrived to find the yard very quiet on the ground, but extremely loud with blackbirds in the treetops. No birds were at the feeders. After about 5 minutes present, I started to walk along the back of the yard absent-mindedly, not expecting to see any birds. I caught a slight movement in the branches of a shrub and began to take photos in case. The bird then hopped a few inches, and I was able to see that it was a towhee—a Spotted Towhee. The bird stayed put for a minute or two, then flew into an island of woods in the open field adjacent to the ear of the property.
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):

“Rufous-sided” towhee with heavy white spotting on blackish ground color above.

Longitudinal rows of white spots along mantle, white edging to tertials, two strong wingbars of white spots, white slash on primaries following the outer line of the wing. Otherwise, the bird had the pattern of “Rufous-sided” towhee.

16. Voice: Later observers mentioned hearing SPTO calls. The sound of almost a hundred “blackbirds” above convening for vespers drowned out most individual calls below.

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

Eastern Towhee lacks this quantity of dorsal spots, has white slash at base of outer primaries.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly broad

20. This description is written from memory and photos

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

22. Date: 7/10/2019





























