

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): *one male*
3. Locality: Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Grand Chenier at 29.723, -92.786
4. Date(s) when observed: *25 January 2019*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1330-1400 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *none*
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *Discovered by Paul Conover and Philip Wallace (21 January, I think); subsequently seen by several others folks... Samantha Collins and Andy From reported at least one bird in the day or two preceding my visit.*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Bright, early-afternoon sunshine under clear sky. Observed bird in both exposed sunlight and in shade*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *5-20 m*

12. Duration of observation: 30 min

13. Habitat: scrubby ecotone between marsh and chenier, and in overgrown vegetation of abandoned house/yard

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Moving through scrubby veg at edge of chenier (marsh side of LA-82) and calling unprovoked, which is how I located the bird. It eventually crossed the road and began foraging in the yard of the abandoned house.

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): Towhee-sized and -shaped bird with sparrow-like bill shape, jet black head, nape, throat and breast; unmarked white belly; orangy-rufous sides and vent. Red eye. Black back and upper wing with bold white spotting on scapulars, tertials, and secondary coverts. Long black tail with white underside of outer rect.

16. Voice: The bird was giving the species' classic, and characteristic cat-like "mew" call, which is bolder and rougher than that of Gray Catbird, of which several were also around calling. Audio recorded; attached.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Towhee eliminated by white spotting on back and upper wing coverts, and by typical SPTO rough, cat-like "mew" call.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photo and audio by R. Dobbs, attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Much experience, visual and aural, with both Spotted and Eastern towhees.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

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

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

23. Date: 11 Feb 2019 Time: 1130 CST

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



