

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Spotted Towhee Pipilo maculatus

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One hatch year bird, sex unknown

3. Parish: Vermilion

Specific Locality: Pecan Island area

4. Date(s) when observed: 16 November 2024

5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 10:40 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: Louisiana

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Sunny, sun behind me.

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

Vortex 12x binos, Canon R10 camera with 200 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): about 20 meters

12. Duration of observation: about 10 minutes, mostly partially obscured.

13. Habitat: Scrubby area along patch of Live Oak trees, etc.

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

I saw the bird fly out of brush into an oak tree and noticed it was a Spotted so I focused and waited for it to show itself. It dropped back down a few minutes later and I got a few pictures of it in transit, etc.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

A “Rufous-sided”-type towhee with extensive dorsal white spotting; common features of SPTO/EATO not described here. I never got good clear open looks through binoculars to determine sex, but the photos show a grayish-black head. Normally I would consider that a female, but this bird also showed extensive brownish feathers on the back and rusty tinges to wing spotting that indicate an immature bird, and I have no idea if young males are less ebony in tone than adults.

Two dotted white wing bars formed by broad white tips to the outer webs of the median and greater secondary upperwing coverts. Long thin oblong white blazes on tertials. White margins to the outer webs of the emarginated outer primaries forming white diagonal on folded wing.

Tail with thin white outer margin to outermost rectrix, and with long white tips to outer three rectrix tips, small irregular white tips to next innermost pair.

Irides look brownish-red in photo, not as bright as adults; I haven’t checked to see if this is an indicator of a first-winter bird.













16. Voice: Gave a typical complaining SPTO call several times. I tried to record it, but it was too sporadic and I don't think I got it.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Towhee by pattern of white above and on wing, and by call.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Very extensive out west, and fairly extensive in LA.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. Seems like a typical Spotted Towhee in appearance and voice.

23. Date: 17 November 2024