

# 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: **Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
**One female type plumage**
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish)  
**Calcasieu Parish; approximately 8.5 mi S Iowa, S side Fruge Road approximately 1.5 mi S Fruge Road x La Hwy 14; 30.104176°/-93.030052°**

Specific Locality:

**Roadside patch of woods on Fruge Road**

4. Date(s) when observed:  
**18 December 2011**
5. Time(s) of day when observed:  
**1425-1435**
6. Reporting observer and address:  
**Michael A. Seymour, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):  
**Walker Wilson & Heather Mancuso**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):  
**None**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

**Clear skies; bird seen mostly in shade**

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

**Vortex 6.5x32mm (brand new); Photos by Canon S5IS (excellent condition)**

11. Distance to bird(s):

**Approximate 25 feet at closest. But mostly 30-60 feet throughout observation.**

12. Duration of observation:

**Approximately ten minutes.**

13. Habitat:

**Small patch of trees along rural road.**

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

**Bird first revealed itself while we were playing an Eastern Screech-Owl tape during the Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie CBC. Presumably, it was attracted by the other birds scolding. We played WETA song/call, and the bird came right in. It left after a few more minutes.**

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):

**Bird was tanager sized, seemed smaller than SUTA. Overall, yellow in color head to vent; darker wings and tail (dark grayish black); two wing bars, which both appeared white (top one *\*might\** have been yellower, but it looked pretty close in color to bottom one); orange, stout bill with darker culmen; grayish yellow head; bird did not call, but did respond to WETA song/call vigorously (if briefly).**

16. Voice:

**No calls heard.**

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

**Only other likely wintering tanager would be Summer, which does not have wing bars, and is one color overall (more or less). Scarlet Tanager would be rarer in winter and does not have wing bars.**

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

**Yes, obtained by me. Photo attached is courtesy "Michael A. Seymour/LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries." Walker Wilson got much better photos.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

**I have seen WETA in range on a few occasions and in La. a handful of times.**

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

a. at time of observation:

**Walker and I both had enough previous experience to ID the bird with our own knowledgebase.**

b. after observation:

**None.**

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_ notes attached?); \_\_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_);  memory;  photographs and videos.

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

**Yes.**

23. Signature of reporter: Michael A. Seymour

Date: 20 December 2011 Time: 1230

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**

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