

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 of unknown age
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Calcasieu
Specific Locality: She was in the trees south of the turn in Fruge Rd, 0.97 miles south of Rossignal Rd., 0.16 miles east of the bridge on Fruge Rd., approximately 4 miles west southwest of Bell City, Louisiana. 30° 6'15.07"N; 93° 1'48.55"W
4. Date(s) when observed: December 18, 2011

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:27pm to 3:31pm

6. Reporting observer and address:
Walker Wilson
1917 East Eagle Street
Zachary, LA 70791
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Michael Seymour
Heather Mancuso
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):
Michael Seymour (I intentionally didn't call out the ID so Michael could independently identify the bird.)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast. There was a moderate amount of light, but no shadows due to the diffused light filtering through the clouds.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Swarovski SLC 10x42 in good condition; Canon 5D Mk II with Canon EF 100-400 f 4.5-5.6L IS USM lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): 10-20 Yards

12. Duration of observation: 4-5 Minutes

13. Habitat: Mature deciduous hardwood riparian forest.

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

The bird initially came in to Eastern Screech-Owl tape. It had something I couldn't identify that looked like a caterpillar in its beak, which it swallowed as it looked for the owl. It kept its distance, but paused in open areas long enough for me to get photos.

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):

It had a thick straight bill with a dark maxilla that faded to an orange-yellow where it met the orange-yellow mandible. The top of the head, its back and wings were grayish-olive. There was an incomplete eye ring that was pale – either white or pale buffy with a hint of yellow, especially on the top portion. There were two pale wing bars. The top one was very pale yellow – almost white, and the lower one was white. The shafts of the remiges looked pale and may have been yellow. The legs were grey. The chin, throat, breast and belly were greyish-yellow. The vent was pure yellow.

16. Voice:

NA

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

I ruled out Scarlet, Summer and Hepatic Tanagers because they don't have wing bars. It didn't have a streaked back like a Flame-colored Tanager (We wish!). The bill was too thick to be an oriole. It was too large to be a warbler. The bill was too thick at the base and not hooked at the tip like a vireo, and it was too large.

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

Michael Seymour and I both got photographs. Mine will be attached.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen and photographed Western Tanagers on many occasions in WY, AZ and TX.

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

a. at time of observation:

Michael Seymour and I spoke discussed it and agreed it was a female Western Tanager

b. after observation:

I used Sibleys, compared the photos I took with photos on websites including [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western Tanager](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Tanager)

21. This description is written from: ____ notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); ____ notes made after the observation (date: ____); X memory. I also consulted photos I took of the bird.

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

Yes.

23. Signature of reporter:  Date: 1-19-12
Time: 11:55pm

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