

CFO-RC F

RESULTS: _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

Species : Eastern Towhee
(Common Name)Pipilo erythrophthalmus
(Scientific Name)

Rcd 10/28/99 wpl

ACCEPT 7-0

Date(s) of observation : 10-19-99Number of birds seen : 1 Sex : Female Plumage : AdultExact location : Corner of Lake Beckwith Dr. & Lakeview CircleCounty : Pueblo Nearest town : Colorado City Elevation : 6400'Length of observation : 10 minutes Times(s) of observation : 10 AM - 10:10 AMOther observers who saw the bird(s) with you : NoneOther observers who independently saw the bird(s) : NoneLight conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's; position) : Clear sky - Bird directly west of observerOptical equipment used : 10x40 Zeiss BinocularDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted) : 15 FeetWas bird photographed? : No If so, have you submitted photographs? _____

Who took the photographs? _____

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred :

Residential neighborhood - bird was on vacant lot, a scrub oak covered hillside with lots of leaf litter

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification) :

Bird foraged on ground actively scratching leaf litter with three nearby Spotted Towhees.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes) :

Slightly larger than a Bluebird with longer tail, this bird was solid rich chestnut brown above and white below with bright orange flanks neatly contrasting with white underparts like an open orange vest. Undertail coverts were light buff. Bill was thick, dark, and short. Iris was orange with dark pupil. Tail was long, over half bird's body length. Tail darker brown than chestnut back. Chestnut brown wing had only 2 spots joined by obscure white line. Chestnut back was solid brown with no spots. White spots on tail were less prominent than Spotted Towhees nearby.Describe bird's call or song: None

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them :

Female Spotted Towhee has numerous speckles on wings and back especially Colorado's races. Female Spotted Towhee head and back is blackish brown - not chestnut brown. White genetic analysis of Colorado's Eastern Towhees may prove varying levels of hybridization with Spotted Towhee. The bird I saw showed no outward field marks of hybridization.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen many Spotted Towhees in Western USA and many Eastern Towhees in my native state of Missouri

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation) :

National Geographic Field Guide, 3rd editionThis report was made from notes made during ✓ or after _____ observation, or later from memory _____.Date of written report : 10-23-99Reporting observer : David Silverman Signature : David SilvermanObserver's address : P.O. Box 362 Rye CO 81069Send report to : Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526