

Common Name: Eastern Bluebird

Scientific Name: Sialia Sialis

Date: March 16th, 1996 Time: 11:00 am

Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: 1, ^{2nd} ^{female} ~~by a~~ Age: Adult

Sex: Male

Location: Lytle Ranch

Lat/long:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 30 ft

Light conditions: clear skies, good light

Optical equipment: 7X35 Bushnell Sportview Bins

Weather: Clear and warm

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird was a bluebird - Blue-backed; red-breasted; small, thin, black bill. The blue was deep, sky blue - more like a Mountain than a western bluebird. The Red was a shade or two lighter than the deep Robin red seen in western bluebirds and extended up through the throat to the bill. The Red came a little onto the collar, but did not extend to the back. There was no red on the back. The belly and undertail coverts were a striking white color. Red on breast came about 60-70% of the way down the breast.

Female There was a female present also. This bird was a uniform gray color on the head and the back with a ^{Red} _(breast) breast. It was either a western or Eastern bluebird. It appeared to be an eastern. However, this bird was not nearly as cooperative as the male and I am not comfortable identifying it to species.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Very, very high chattering noise - almost inaudible

Behavior: Sitting high in Cottonwood, moving around in Cottonwood.

A light wind came up and the bird hunkered down for about 10 minutes - facing us in good light.

Habitat: Desert Riparian

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

It could have been a Mountain or western Bluebird. Mountain was eliminated because of the presence of Red on the chest. Western was eliminated because the Red came all the way up through the throat and was absent from the back. Additionally, the shade of blue and red was different than I have seen in Western Bluebirds previously. Finally, the ^{belly} ~~unders~~ and undertail coverts were white, not the greyish color usually seen in western Bluebirds.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Mountain Bluebirds are common in the state.

I have seen western Bluebirds in Springdale, Gunlock, and at Little Ranch.

I have seen Eastern Bluebirds in extreme NE Colorado and in SE Arizona.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

We confirmed our decision by checking NCS and Peterson Field Guides.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd Record for the state. Previous sighting was (I believe) in Moab in 1990.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

We returned 3-17 to photograph bird but were unable to relocate the bird.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting * notes made later ___ from memory ___

Observer: Matt² DeVries

Signature: 

Address: 1434 South 280 East
Orem, Utah 84058

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Pia DeVries
Joshua Kreitzer

Date prepared: 3-19-96

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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West Valley City, Utah 84120