

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2013-11-04 11:48:51
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Janet Heintz
<b>E-mail</b>	jmheintz@zoominternet.net
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 122 Saddlebrook Lane City: Baden State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15005 Country: United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Spotted Towhee
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Pipilo maculatus
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	male
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	05-13-2013 10:20 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
<b>County</b>	Allegheny
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Marshall Township
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	122 Saddlebrook Lane
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.662264,-80.140925
<b>Habitat</b>	Shrubs, fields, mature trees, creek, ponds,lawn
<b>Distance to bird</b>	about 30 feet up in a tree
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear day, sunny, breezy
<b>Description</b>	White underneath with rust on the sides, View was from below and the bird was quite high up in the tree.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	I was cleaning up branches from a violent storm a day or two before and heard a bird call that I didn't recognize. I walked over to where it was coming from and saw 2 male Eastern Towhees on the ground. Then the bird called again. It was up in a tree and the sun was shining in my eyes. But I could see the white and rust color underneath of a Towhee. Then I heard the call again. It was two quick chirps and at the end of the call what sounded a little bit like a Eastern Towhee. He kept calling and I was looking around for a different bird because I knew it wasn't the sound of the

Eastern Towhee. But it was coming from where the towhee in the tree was. Then I heard something strange, a meewww call like a catbird but not quite. The bird repeated this again and again. The chirps and then the meeww call. I ran up to my house for my camera and binoculars but when I came back he had moved deeper into the trees and I couldn't locate him. He was still calling off in the distance. I Went up to the house to listen to the call of the Eastern Towhee on my computer to see if it made this meeww sound, which I never heard them do before. Nothing sounded right, so I checked similar birds, because I knew from looking at it underneath it looked like an Eastern Towhee. Then I listened to the sound of the Spotted Towhee..... that was it! Sounded exactly the same. I am wondering if the bird was blown off course because of the bad storms we had here a couple days before.

**Separation from similar species  
(How you eliminated others)**

I eliminated the Eastern Towhee because of the calls the bird was making. And by the meeww call it was making.

**Discussion – anything else  
relevant to the observation that  
will aid the committee in  
evaluating it:**

I have been birding for many years and I am a wildlife photographer. I tried to get any other identifying marks but with the sun it was hard to see anything else. I did not enter this sighting in ebird because I couldn't make a positive ID from sight,. But the call was very distinct. I believe that it was a Spotted Towhee. The meeww call was very distinct and the chirps I have never heard before.

**Are you positive of your  
identification ? (Why or why not)**

I do believe this was a Spotted Towhee that I observed from the call that I heard.

**After**

Birds of North America online, searched the calls

**Click to edit**

PORC-webform00172