

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2013-11-04 11:48:51
Observer's Name	Janet Heintz
E-mail	jmheintz@zoominternet.net
Observer's Address	Street Address: 122 Saddlebrook Lane City: Baden State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15005 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Spotted Towhee
Species (Scientific Name)	Pipilo maculatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	male
Observation Date and Time	05-13-2013 10:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Allegheny
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Marshall Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	122 Sadelbrook Lane
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.662264,-80.140925
Habitat	Shrubs, fields, mature trees, creek, ponds,lawn
Distance to bird	about 30 feet up in a tree
Viewing conditions	Clear day, sunny, breezy
Description	White underneath with rust on the sides, View was from below and the bird was quite high up in the tree.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	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

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