

**RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION**  
**Records of Vermont Birds**

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

**SPECIES:** **Townsend's Solitaire**

**NUMBER OBSERVED:** **One**

**OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS** (and addresses if available)  
Kaylee Pollander 204 Pollander Rd, Jeffersonville, VT

**LOCATION:** (place, township, county) Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton, Franklin County

**DATE:** 11/6/12

**TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:** 15-20 Minutes

**DISTANCES FROM BIRD:** Maximum: 15 ft Minimum: 3 ft

**WEATHER:**

Wind direction None Wind speed None

Sky cover Partially Cloudy Light in relation to observer's position : Front, Behind tree line  
Temperature: 35° F

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** (make, power, etc.) Nikon Trail Blazer 10x42 and mostly Nikon D50 with 70-300 mm lens

**OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:**  
**Have seen Eastern Bluebird before, but not Townsend's Solitaire.**

**OTHER DOCUMENTATION:** Photo X Tape Recording \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen \_\_\_\_\_

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? Photo attached below



**HABITAT:** (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

Brushy wetland habitat. perched on dogwoods, and buttonbush. Wetland was between two wooded areas. Mostly white oaks on one side and maple beech mixed on the other side. Wetland was long and narrow. No other species seen in vicinity.

**BIRD'S BEHAVIOR:** (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

Bird was eating winterberry fruits, spent most of the time observed perched and looking around as seen in photo.

**VOCALIZATION:** (song or calls)

Few short calls but not very distinct.

**DESCRIPTION:** (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

**Relative size and shape:**

Small bird, long tail. About the same size as an Eastern Bluebird

**Head** (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape):

Slate Gray overall, slightly lighter under chin, white eye ring

**Feet and Bill** (shape, color, length):

Black bill and feet/legs, legs are small and dainty.

**Upper back:**

Slate gray overall

**Lower back and rump:**

Slate gray overall

**Wings** (shape, length, markings):

White around edge of many feathers, buff patches lower on wing on primaries. Folded wing meets top of tail.

**Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:**

Completely gray breast and belly, dark spot under the side of the tail. Did not see under tail.

**Tail (shape, length, markings):**

Long, darker than body color, white on outside edge of outer tail feathers

**IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?**

The Northern Mockingbird was eliminated firstly because of size. The bird seen was much smaller than the mocking bird. The mocking bird has a white chest which the bird did not have. The mocking bird also does not have the white eye ring that the seen bird had. It also did not have clear white bars on the folded wing as the mocking bird does. The bill of the seen bird is also much smaller than the mockingbirds. Finally the mockingbird has more white on the outer tail feathers than this bird did.

**COMMENTS:** (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

More pictures are available.

This report was written from notes taken during \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after \_\_\_\_\_ the observation, or written from memory  X  (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME (print)  Kaylee Pollander  SIGNATURE (not req'd) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS  204 Pollander Rd, Jeffersonville, VT 05464

DATE  11/7/12

Return electronically (preferred) to: [vbrc@vtcostudies.org](mailto:vbrc@vtcostudies.org) or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055