

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

accepted  
5/17/72

1. Species: CAROLINA WREN Thryothorus ludovicianus 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: 1041 Field St., Lakewood, Colo. 80215 [and neighboring yards]
4. Date(s): Dec. 11, 1972 5. Time bird seen: 9:00 a.m. to late afternoon
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
Large fairly long-tailed wren with typical wren shape, posture and behavior. Upper parts uniform reddish brown from base of bill to tip of tail: crown and back unmarked, tail with fine transverse dark bars; conspicuous white supercilary line, throat white; breast and belly bright buff.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Song call recognized as different from our "regular birds"
8. Description of behavior: See over
9. Habitat--general: Suburban residential area with many trees + bushes  
specific: 20 ft and less, in evergreen and deciduous plants; on bird feeder
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain: Bewick's Wren has white underparts and white in tail; Rock Wren grayer with streaks on breast and buff on tail. Marsh Wrens have black + white streaks on back.
11. Distance (how measured?): As little as 10 feet estimated.
12. Optical equipment: 7x35 and 10x50 binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): Good light, sun back of observers
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Caroline Wren seen many times in Texas + SE states, especially around Washington, D.C. where we lived 1950-52
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? Caroline Wren a "rare visitor" in Colo. acc. Bailey + Miedad (1965) and as "usual" in the Denver area by Holt (1969)
16. Other observers: Joyce Cooper, Jim Sam, Sam Smith, Steve Soren, Patty Echelmeyer and unknown others after we left Lakewood 6:00 a.m. Dec. 12
17. Did others agree with your identification? All listed agree
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: So far as I know all birds who saw the bird did so as a result of our phone calls after bird alert about followed
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Common field guides, Bailey + Miedad (1965), Holt (1969)  
These did not influence documentation in any significant way
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

John R. Cooper Street Address: 1041 Field St.  
Signature  
Date Prepared: Jan 8, 1973 City and State: Lakewood, Colo. 80215

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

8. About 9:00 a.m., Dec. 11, my wife Joyce was using her telephone and spotted the bird through a picture window on the ground about 10 feet away beneath (south side of) a pfitzer bush — one of the very few places in our yard then free of snow. She called to me and we observed the bird for about 5 minutes. For awhile the bird would hop about constantly with tail held high in typical wren fashion and peck at the ground; then it would disappear up into the thick branches and foliage of the pfitzer. This procedure was repeated several times before it flew away.

Later the same day Joyce heard unfamiliar call notes and we located the same bird about 20 feet up a neighbor's bare deciduous tree. We traced the bird through several other yards until it disappeared in the Haney yard at 10<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (8995 West 10<sup>th</sup>). We then phoned Jim Sams who came up and confirmed our identification. We all had an excellent view of all features of the bird while it was on top of the Haney's abandoned brick incinerator now used as a bird feeder.

Still later same day bird seen by Jim Sams (again); Steve Samsen, Larry Smith and Patty Echelmeyer.

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JR 5/17/73

1. Species: Carolina Wren Thryothorus ludovicianus 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Vicinity of 10th and Field Streets in Lakewood
4. Date(s): Dec. 11 & 12th, 1972 5. Time bird seen: 9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.  
1:45 to 1:50
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
The bird was at once identifiable as a wren by its rather short perky tail, which was held upright in a typical wren fashion, and by its habit of hopping around from twig to twig in a quick nervous manner. It was considerably larger than a House Wren, but not nearly as large as a Cactus Wren. The most prominent features were a strong, whiteish eyeline and its rich, buffy brown coloration. The back and tail were a rich, dark brown. The belly and breast were also rich brown, but of a lighter shade. This coloration blended gradually with the white of the throat so that the coloration of the throat was not an outstanding
7. Description of voice, if heard: (over)  
Two quite different calls were heard. One was a scolding sound (Over)
8. Description of behavior:  
It hopped around in a quick, nervous fashion with its tail held (over)
9. Habitat--general: The bird spent most of its time concealed in the (over)  
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
Over
11. Distance (how measured?): It was best observed at about 100 feet, although (over)
12. Optical equipment: 7X50 Bushnell
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
Seen in various lights, but best observed for about 15 minutes when it
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I spent last winter in East Texas where the species is common, and I
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
Personal knowledge and Harold Holt's Checklist
16. Other observers: John and Joyce Cooper, Larry Smith, Steve Larson.
17. Did others agree with your identification? Yes.
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
John and Joyce Cooper first identified the bird.
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:  
None, I am quite familiar with this bird.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:
- Signature Jim Larson Street Address: Box 18449  
Date Prepared: Dec. 20, 1972 City and State: Denver, CO 80218

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

6. con't - feature. The feet and bill were brownish and not outstanding color.
7. similar to that made by a House Wren only louder and deeper. The other sound was almost a whisper song of little warbled notes, quite unlike its usual loud ring call.
8. up straight above the back.
9. thick branches of a Phitzer Juniper and other dense shrubery in the neighborhood. Occasionally it flew up into a bare tree, but only stayed for a few seconds and then dove back into the thickets.
10. The bird was larger than a Bewick's Wren and much browner. It had a prominent eyeline, which would exclude the House Wren or Winter Wren. It did not have the white stripes on the back like a Long-billed Marsh Wren. It most resembled a Canyon Wren as it was about the same size and a rich brown; however, its throat had only a small white area, quite unlike the large, well-defined white patch on the Canyon Wren.
11. at one time it was closer than 20 feet as I could not focus my binoculars on it.
13. hopped back and forth to a feeder on top of a brick trash burner. The sky was clear and the light was good with the sun behind me.
- 14 I saw it nearly everytime I went afield, which was frequently.