

APPENDIX II

42-88-37

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Carolina Wren ; thryothorus ludovicianus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 9-02-88 Time Bird Seen: 4:00 P to 5:00 P

Locality : Arkansas River Bridge, 1 mile south of Holly,
Prowers County, Colorado Lat/long # 21
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 8x30 & Bushnell 7x50 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: basic

Light conditions: Partly cloudy, good afternoon light.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10 feet, estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior: The bird began a rough, chattering scold soon after an owl-tape was played to attract warblers. The wren hopped continuously between perches on or near ground in heavy undergrowth.
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

South bank of Arkansas River with heavy tangle of undergrowth comprised of tamarisk, willows, fallen trees (mostly cottonwood saplings) and cattails.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

This wren was seen by about 20 additional birders on 9-03-88 including

Dan Bridges, Duane Nelson, Vic Zerbi, ~~XXXX~~ & DFO field trip.

This wren was seen by about 10 birders on 9-24-88 including

Mark Janos, Jerry Cairo, Sebastian Pathi (Chicago, Illinois), Lloyd Moore (Kansas City)

Carolina Wren
9-02-88 Seltman

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The bird in question was about sparrow sized but very plump and with a very short tail. Most notable field marks included the white eye stripe, with dark red cap, back, wings and tail. The breast and belly were a rich buffy color.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The chattering scold calls of the bird were delivered from various perches in heavy cover. The primary call was not heard but the wren did respond to a tape of Carolina Wren by scolding.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bewick's Wren is the only other similarly sized wren with a white supercilium. This bird was much too buffy to be a Bewick's and the distinctive scolding calls of a Bewick's were absent in this bird.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have considerably experience with all North American wrens.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after X observation;
from memory _____.

Name (print) : Scott & Diane Seltman

Mailing address: RR1 Box 36 Nekoma, KS 67559

Signature: Scott Seltman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

II
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We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): ^(on 5 dates) 4 Sept - 17 Dec 1988 Time Bird Seen: various to _____

Locality: Along Arkansas R.; south bank, Hwy 92 south of
Hally, Colo.
Nearest town, county and state: _____

Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon Binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: adult.

Light conditions: Excellent, sun at back; low & high angles.

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 12 ft (estimated) to 50 ft.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Very secretive. Responds to tape of Carolina Wren song (& pishing) by giving scolding call. Approaches secretly, then hops into clear view at very close range -- but always close to cover & eventually disappears back into tangle. Perches at angle on stems & trunks.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian woodland. Loose canopy of cottonwoods but heavy riverside growth of bushes, shrubs and grasses.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Vic Zerbi, Dan Bridges, others.

APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. *Small size; ~4½-5" long, with short tail, often cocked up.*

Upperparts even, rich reddish brown (very similar in color to back of nearly Brown Thrasher). White chin & throat, rich pale brown to buff breast & belly with whiter undertail coverts. Undersides unmarked with streaks or bars. Wings indistinctly barred with fine blackish lines & w/ 2 vague white wingbars. Strong white superciliary extending back nearly to nape. Face dusky, whitish, with dirty diffuse streaking on cheek. Bill med.-long & decurved. Back rusty and unmarked.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Gives rough scolded "churr" notes in response to taped Carolina Wren song. Also chips & "chuck" notes; no song..

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

House Wren barred underneath; lacks white wingbars, lacks rusty tones.

Bewick's Wren lacks wingbars, white underneath, long-tailed.

Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren have barred backs, no wingbars.

Rock & Canyon Wrens lack white superciliary, wingbars; marked otherwise.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen just a few Carolina Wrens in Florida & Texas. I've seen all species of north American wrens.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory .

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 1 CACTUS DR. LA JUNTA, CO 81050

Signature: Mark Janos

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c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205