

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Carolina Wren | Thryothorus ludovicianus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): October 9, 1989Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: adultLocality: About 2 miles below Two Buttes Reservoir Elevation: 4200' ±Nearest town: 17 miles ^{on Two Buttes Creek} NNE of Springfield County: Baca
(on the Baca - Prowers line)Time(s) observed: 9:30 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 seconds

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good - Sunny morning - Looking generally toward the sun but at the base of a cliff so there was no problemOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x binocularsDistance, and how measured: 200 feet est.If photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird was scratching around on the ground near a Rufous-sided Towhee under some bushes that had no leaves. It leisurely hopped around, very much in open view.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Large sparrow size with a small, rusty brown, barred cocked tail. The bird had a very prominent white eye-line and a Chestnut-colored cap. The back ~~was rust~~ & wings were rusty brown. The throat was white and the belly was a rusty buff color. This was a large wren. I double checked my book immediately to see if there was any chance that

Description (continued):

this was a Cactus Wren — No spotting
on the breast — No Cactus Wren! Shucks!

I have just looked at the illustrations in Golden Guide and National Geographic. My bird had the exact coloring shown in the Golden Guide. It was not nearly as dark brown as shown in National Geographic. I think National Geographic's spotting on the breast of a Canyon Wren is totally incorrect.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No sound

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bushes were at the base of a cliff on the south side of Two Buttes Creek which is totally dry now except for a few deep holes (none of which were nearby). The bushes were approx. 100' away from the creek.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Perhaps there was a little moisture here but it appeared to be dry. This was not a Bewick's Wren because it was too large, had a small tail with no white, had buff on the belly, and was moving too slowly. This was not a Canyon Wren because it was too large, had a large white eyeline and the buff extended much farther up to the small white throat.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

On September 3, 1988 the DFO field trip and I saw a Carolina Wren at the Holly Bridge over the Arkansas River. This wren stayed there and was seen for at least a month longer. There is an outside possibility that this is the same individual — working its way west on the Arkansas River ... List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: then southwest 35 miles up Two Buttes Creek.

a) at time of observation: Golden Guide — Birds of North America

b) after observation: Golden Guide — Birds of North America
National Geographic — " " " "

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: October 10, 1989 8 PM

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora, CO. 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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