

42-96-52  
Accepted 7-0

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Carolina Wren

Date(s): 14 Apr. 1996 Time seen: 1:30- 2 p.m.

Locality: 745 Glencoe, Denver (Wuertheles)

Latilong: 12 Optical equipment: Binoculars

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Good; sunny

Distance from bird: Estimated 25-50 feet

Weather at time of observation: Sunny, windy

Prior weather & number of days since change: Windy; snow squalls on previous day.

Describe habitat: Fenced backyard. Small plot of grass, some bushes in corners of yard. Line of bushes along south side of fence in neighbor's yard; also some unused garden structures and a tree house across to the west.

Describe behavior: first heard singing in yard to south; then it perched on the fence between the two yards, and finally came to both the seed feeder and the suet feeder; took a piece of suet away, peched on fence, and pecked at it.

Field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc.: Large wren with, compared to a House Wren, a long tail; brown or rufous brown back, buffy breast. Conspicuous eye line and longish, slightly decurved, bill.

Bird's call or song: Sang loud "cheeka cheeka cheeka"; heard several times both while in sight and when unseen, south of Wuerthele's yard.

Field marks not seen:

Similar species:

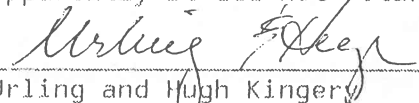
Bewick's: lacks the rusty/buffy tones, totally different song.

House: smaller, grayer, shorter tail, totally different song.

Prior experience: We have seen Bewick's and Carolina wrens a number of times, and lots and lots of House Wrens.

Description from: Memory

Bill and Suzanne Wuerthele identified the bird from song and sight early on the morning of our observation of the bird in their yard. Bill prepared a Verification Form which he sent to me and which I have lost. Warren Finch observed the bird the next day, but apparently it did not return after that.

  
Urling and Hugh Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street, Denver CO 80206

Species: Carolina Wren  
(Vernacular name)

Thryothorus ludovicianus  
(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.

Date (s): April 14 & 16, 1996

Time Bird Seen: from ~10:00 a.m. to ~6:30 p.m. (10:00 a.m. to on the 16th)

Locality: 745 Glencoe St.  
Denver, CO. 80220  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Leica 8x20 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 \* Sex: ♂ (singing) Plumage: \_\_\_\_\_

Light conditions: Seen throughout the day on the 14th; ideal light conditions; clear sunny

Distance from bird, and how measured: ~30'; From back deck to hanging bird feeder (or less)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Singing intermittently throughout the day on the 14th; feeding in low shrubs, on the ground & at both a seed & suet feeder. The Wuertheles observed the bird on the 14th only. On the 16th a note left by Warren Finch noted the bird was singing & observed on the 16th at approx. 10:00 a.m.

\* Two observers (Suzanne Wuerthele & Warren Finch on the 16th) thought there might be two singing birds.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Urban backyard. Small shrubs. Several large trees - basswood, crabapple, elm, locust.

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

H. & E. Kingery 869 Milwaukee St. Denver, CO.

W. Finch 455 Dover St Lakewood, CO.

S. Wuerthele 745 Glencoe St., Denver CO.

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 birds descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Small bird (somewhat smaller than House Finch which was also at the feeder). Wren-like appearance. Overall warm buffy-brown appearance. Very noticeable white eye stripe. Buff breast & belly with contrasting white throat. Prominent bill sticks out of a brown, stocky, very active little brown bird (overall impression of this wren).

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

Characteristic melodious, loud Carolina wren song; from a number of different perches.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bewick's & Rock wren — Song; ~~lack~~ lack of buffy breast & belly with contrasting white throat for Bewick's; lack of white eye stripe & color differences for Rock wren; size & color differences for other possible wrens.

wren-like behavior & song for any other similar species

Characteristic song was what attracted the observer's attention & was an important element in identification & elimination of similar species.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

living & breeding in the East.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after \_\_\_ observation; from memory L

NAME (print): William Wuerthel

Mailing address: 745 Glencoe St. Denver, Co. 80220

Signature: William Wuerthel

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206