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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Rcd 5/99 upl

ACCEPT 7-0

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: Carolina Wren  
(Common Name)Thryothorus ludovicianus  
(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: February 15, 16, &amp; 19 1999.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: unknown.

Plumage: adult.

Exact location: 621 Orman, Pueblo, Colorado. In the backyard at the feeders at Mary, Richard, and Tim Tucey's home.

County: Pueblo.

Nearest town: Pueblo.

Length of Observation: 3 minutes on 2/15, 7 minutes on 2/16, and 15 minutes on 2/19.

Time(s) of Observation: about 945am on 2/15, about 1145am on 2/16, and 130pm-145pm.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Mary Tucey all three days. Todd Dilley, BB Hahn, and Sherry Chapman on 2/16. Gene Rutherford on 2/19.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Richard and Tim Tucey, Leon Bright. The bird was first found on December 5, 1998 by Mary Tucey and has been coming to the feeders nearly every day. Dave Johnson also saw it on 2/16. Dave Silverman saw it on 2/17 and Rosie and Jim Watts saw it on 2/18.

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]: Excellent, sunny all days.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 B&amp;L Custom Binoculars.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted): About 25 feet.

Was the bird photographed: no.

If so, have you submitted photos? n/a.

Who took the photographs? n/a.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

The bird was in seen sitting on the ground feeding on fallen thistle from the feeders. The area is a backyard in Pueblo, east of Pueblo City Park. The yard has cottonwood trees, also some evergreen bushes, and tangles. On 2/16, the bird was feeding on a suet feeder and thistle feeders. On 2/19, the bird was feeding the tube thistle feeder with American Goldfinches and House Finches.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): I first noticed the bird sitting on the ground feeding on fallen thistle from the feeder. It was with lots of other birds (American Goldfinches, House Finches, House Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos). The bird stayed on the ground the entire time I saw it on 2/15. On 2/16, the bird first appeared at the suet feeder, then at several thistle feeders. It was with American Goldfinches, House Finches, and House Sparrows on 2/16. On 2/19, the bird was feeding with House Finches and American Goldfinches.



Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the (bird(s). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. That were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted: you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

The size of the bird was a large wren, about five inches. It was about the same size as the American Goldfinches, though smaller than the House Sparrows, House Finches and Dark-eyed Juncos. The shape was a small song bird with a long tail, that was half cocked. The bird was a wren because of the shape and size, and the colors. Also, because of its long tail (longer than most wrens), that was half cocked. The plumage was of an adult. It was a very bright and colorful bird. The bill was dark, thin, curved downward slightly (like most wrens) and somewhat long. The face was brownish. There was a long bright white eye stripe over each eye, going from the bill to the end of the neck. The two eyes were dark. The cap, above the eyeline was a brownish red color. The wings, back, and tail were also this brownish red color. The throat was light buff. The rest of the underparts, including breast, belly, and undertail coverts were all brighter buff. The undertail coverts had about six lines of brown feathers. The tail was longer than most other wrens, except for maybe Bewick's Wren. The tail did not have any white on it, it was all brownish red. The legs and feet were grayish. I identified the bird as a Carolina Wren, because of its brownish red overall color on the upper parts, by the bright buffy underparts, by the long, bright white eye stripes over each eye. By the shape and size, and by the lack of white in the tail (like Bewick's Wren's have).

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard:

None heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

House, Winter, Sedge Wrens: are all at least an inch smaller than this bird. Also, none of them have the same brownish red color.

Canyon Wren: This species likes canyon walls and rocks, not a back yard birding station, also this species a longer bill and a bright white throat to the breast.

Rock Wren: The color of this species is more gray, and the habitat is wrong. I like rocks and canyons, not back yards with trees and tangles.

Marsh Wren: The color of this species, is somewhat similar, except this species has white streaks on the back, and would not be as buffy underneath.

Bewick's Wren: Some "eastern" Bewick's Wrens can be reddish on the back, similar to Carolina Wren, though Bewick's Wren always shows white on the edges of the tail. Bewick's Wrens should never be as buffy as the bird I saw.

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

Carolina Wren: I have seen five previous Carolina Wrens in Colorado. Beulah, Pueblo County; Two Buttes Res., Baca County (two birds); Pueblo, along the Arkansas River, Pueblo County; and Lamar, Prowers County. Also, I have seen Carolina Wrens in Texas and Kansas.

House Wren: I have seen a lot of these in Colorado, and other states.

Winter Wren: I have seen about ten in Colorado. I have not seen this species elsewhere.

Sedge Wren: I have seen three in Colorado, and others in North Dakota and Nebraska.

Canyon Wren: I have seen lots of these in Colorado.

Rock Wren: I have seen lots of these in Colorado, and other western states.

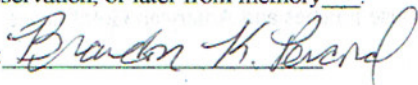
Marsh Wren: I have seen lots of these in Colorado, always near or in marshy habitat.

Bewick's Wren: I have seen lots of these in Colorado, Arizona, Kansas, and other states.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced you identification (during and after observation): None needed.

This report was made from notes taken during \_\_\_\_\_, or after ☒ observation, or later from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

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