

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a one-page report.)

7-0 A

Red 5/24/00 upl

CFO-RC FILE X:

## RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Carolina Wren

(Scientific Name) *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Date(s) of occurrence: May 18, 2000

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: male ?

Plumage: basic

Exact location: UTM 12-702862-4329800; T1S, R2W, Section 14 NESW Ute Mer.;  
624 Yucca Drive (seen on Yosemite Road 1/8 mi W)

County: Mesa

Nearest town: Grand Junction

Elevation: 4620 ft.

Length of observation: 20 mins. (sound), 2 minutes (sight)

Time(s) of observation: 6:00am to 6:20am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): none yet

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: overcast at sunrise time, bird to north of observer

Optical equipment used: 8 x 40 Fujinon binoculars, with nothing to rest the binoculars against

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 80 feet

Was bird(s) photographed? no

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Suburban, cottonwood trees to power lines to lilac bush

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): Singing flying to next perch 30 to 200 feet between each and singing again and finally flying into bush and becoming silent.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the 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 important 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 field notes): Got front view, flying view, one-second side view, bit smaller than nearby house finch, bill much more slender and longer; throat and belly seemed equally pale-not white and not rich cinnamon, buffy edges of breast similar to photo in The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding 1983 (Vol. II, p. 349), tipped head for a second and crown appeared reddish brown, saw white superciliary line until I positioned a darker background and then couldn't see it (perhaps the white line was a lighting aberration, but I think that I simply didn't get a long enough look at the bird with a dark background), the flight seemed appropriately flimsy for a wren, wings and back seen from the side were distinctly darker and a warm reddish brown, this impression was developed from a second's glimpse.

Describe bird's call or song: Classic "tea kettle" x 4 and louder than any other neighborhood bird including the several vociferous house finches around. My description---"tyouperly tyouperly tyouperly tyouperly" with the "tyou" monosyllabic rather than "ty-you". Once just before becoming silent, it gave an equally loud 2-syllable song "tyou-brrit tyou-brrit tyou-brrit". The quality of the songs are rich, not dry, with the sound bouncing off of the walls of the houses in the neighborhood.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Our House Wrens are usually dusky brown without so much warm yellowish or reddish in the brown. The distant views and short side view make the observation a little unconvincing without the vocalization however. The song was clearly Carolina Wren and not the primary itchy bubbly House Wren song. Of course house wrens do another song or two, but I've never heard a persistent mimic of a Carolina Wren. Also the pale breast and belly occurs in Carolina Wrens as it does in House Wrens, but the buff-edged upper breast of this bird seemed to favor the Carolina Wren determination.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Noticed birds and specifically Carolina Wrens prior to 1960 and heard and saw them annually to daily until 1968 and sporadically since. Last heard and saw them in June 1998. I had this sound identified immediately (I was just waking up and for a short space wondered what was real). This could argue that I was biased 3 suburban blocks later when I saw it or that I know my Carolina wrens. I believe the latter.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Minutes after the observation I went to the National Geogr., IBC's book, and Master Guide to Birding questioning my not seeing a contrast from throat to belly. They were no help except for the buffy upper breast edges mentioned above.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: May 18, 2000

Reporting observer: Ron Lambeth

Signature: Ron Lambeth

Reporting Observer's Address: 624 Yucca Drive

City: Grand Junction

State: Colorado

Zip: 81503