

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS : 2001-014

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PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: CAROLINA WREN Thryothorus ludovicianus
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: DECEMBER 24, 2000

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: — PLUMAGE: ADULT BASIC

EXACT LOCATION: 906 W. CHEYENNE ROAD

COUNTY: EL PASO NEAREST TOWN: COLORADO SPRINGS ELEVATION: _____

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 2 MIN. TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: BETWEEN 3:00 AND 3:15 pm

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S) :

MARTHA CURRY, BEN SORENSON, AND HOMEOWNER GEORGIAN WUNDERLI

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION] :

IT WAS PARTLY CLOUDY. THE SUN WAS GETTING LOW NEAR THE MOUNTAINS AND CAME FROM BEHIND THE HOUSE, WHICH FACED SOUTH. THE FEEDERS WERE LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE ON THE WEST SIDE.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED :

10X42 BAUSCH AND LOMB BINOCULARS

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) :

APPROXIMATELY 25 FEET, PLUS FURTHER

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: UNKNOWN IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NO

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED: HABITAT WAS A SUBURBAN YARD IN AN OLD ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD. HOMEOWNER HAD FEEDERS SET UP IN A WILDFLOWER GARDEN, ALONG WITH A WATER DISH.

THERE WAS A SMALL CREEK/DRAINAGE DITCH RUNNING THROUGH THE YARD ^{NEAR} THE FEEDERS.
DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

WHEN FIRST SEEN, THE BIRD WAS IN A SMALL DECIDUOUS TREE, AND WAS FORAGING. POKING IN NOOKS AND CRANNIES IN THE BARK. IT THEN FLEW TO A BRANCH CLOSER TO THE FEEDERS, AND PAUSED MOMENTARILY, AND THEN DROPPED INTO A LOW BUSH. IT BRIEFLY MOVED AROUND IN THE BUSH, AND WITH A FEW SHORT FLIGHTS AND QUICK MOVES WENT INTO THE STREAM/CREEK ~~AND~~ AREA AND OUT OF SIGHT. I FELT I HAD HAD A NICE LOOK, AND LEFT.

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):

THIS BIRD WAS A LITTLE SMALLER THAN NEARBY JUNCOS, BUT WITH CHUNKIER BODY SHAPE. IT WOULD COCK IT'S TAIL UPRIGHT WHILE MOVING ALONG, AND IT'S MOVEMENTS WERE QUICK. IT ALSO MOVED IN AND OUT OF COVER, AND INVESTIGATED TIGHT SPOTS IN THE BUSH, ETC. IT'S BILL WAS THIN AND POINTED WITH A DE-CURVE. THE CROWN, HIND NECK AND BACK A BRIGHT RUFOUS BROWN - VERY DISTINCTIVE AMONG THE JUNCOS AND HOUSE FINCHES PRESENT. IT HAD A LONG WHITE SUPERCILIUM ABOVE THE EYE EXTENDING PAST THE EYE. THE THROAT WAS WHITE, AND THE BREAST AND BELLY BRIGHT BUFF. THE TAIL WAS HELD TIGHTLY TOGETHER, AND DID NOT FAN THE FEATHERS. IT FREQUENTLY COCKED THE TAIL MORE UPRIGHT WHEN IT QUICKLY MOVED AROUND. THE BIRD DID NOT VOCALIZE DURING MY OBSERVATION.

DUE TO THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR, POSTURING, ETC., IT WAS EASY TO CONCLUDE IT WAS A WREN. IT'S BRIGHT COLORATION AND LONG WHITE SUPERCILIUM MAKE IT FAIRLY DISTINCTIVE WITHIN THE SPECIES GROUP.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

IT COULD POSSIBLY BE CONFUSED WITH BEWICK'S WREN, AS BOTH HAVE A LONG WHITE SUPERCILIUM. BUT, CAROLINA IS MORE BRIGHTLY COLORED, HAS A BRIGHT BUFF CHEST AND BELLY, AND THE BEWICK'S IS WHITE-PALE GRAY. BEWICK'S ALSO SEEMS LONGER TAILED.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

I HAVE SEEN THE SPECIES NUMEROUS TIMES OVER MANY YEARS IN WYOMING, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, TEXAS, MINNESOTA, AND POSSIBLY A COUPLE OTHER STATES. I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS SPECIES. I HAVE CONSULTED FIELD GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NO FIELD GUIDES WERE NECESSARY FOR THIS BIRD

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER _____ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY X.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 3/22/2001

REPORTING OBSERVER: ANDREW SMITH SIGNATURE: 