

# **New Mexico Ornithological Society**

## **Bird Records Committee Submittal Form**

### **New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report**

**1. Species:** Golden-crowned Kinglet

**2. Number:** 3

**3. Location:** Bosque del Apache NWR

**4. Date(s):** 12/15/12

**5. Time(s):** 9:15 AM & 1:30 PM

**6: Reporting observer:**

David L. Hawksworth

611 Lead Avenue SW Apt. #815

Albuquerque, NM 87102

[davehawk1@msn.com](mailto:davehawk1@msn.com)

**7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Also seen and identified by Sonja Mendoza.

**8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None that I know of.

**9. Light conditions:** Excellent, the Sun was a right angle to the birds.

**10. Optical equipment:** Observed with 8X40 binoculars.

**11. Distance to bird:** All birds were observed from 15-25 meters away.

**12. Duration of observation:** I watched each group for a minute or two.

**13. Habitat:** All were found in dense riparian thickets (willow/cottonwood/salt cedar) along canals. Two were in one location and the third bird was in different location.

**14. Behavior:** These birds were very actively foraging in mixed-species flocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Audubon's Warblers, Bushtits, etc. They frequently flicked their wings and tail while foraging.

**15. Description:** These were very tiny birds, noticeably smaller than Audubon's Warblers by direct comparison. Overall, their plumage was dark green, considerably paler below than above. They had black wings with distinct white wing bars. They had short, black tails and tiny beaks. When seen from the right angle, by far the most noticeable field marks were their bold crown patterns. All three had bold white superciliums with black and yellow stripes above the supercilium. Two were males with a red-orange stripe in the center of the crown and the other was a female with a yellow crown stripe.

**16. Voice:** All three were initially detected by their voices. They called with extremely high-pitched "see see" notes, most similar to Brown Creepers.

**17. Similar species:** The most likely species I could have confused them with is Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I separated them from Ruby-crowneds by their bold crown patterns and very different voices.

**18. Photographs?** None.

**19. Previous experience with this species:** I have observed this species many times previously.

**20. Aids:** None needed.

**21. This description written from:** Notes taken at time of observation.

**22. Are you positive of your identification?** Yes.

**23. Signature, date & time report written:**

Dave Hawksworth 12/23/12 12:00 PM