

New Mexico Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee Submittal Form

New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report

1. Species: Gray Catbird

2. Number: 1

3. Location: Bosque del Apache NWR

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

5. Time(s): 11:00 AM

6: Reporting observer:

David L. Hawksworth

611 Lead Avenue SW Apt. #815

Albuquerque, NM 87102

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7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: Also seen and identified by Connie Taylor.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: None.

9. Light conditions: Excellent, the Sun was behind us as we observed this bird.

10. Optical equipment: Observed with 8X40 binoculars, but easily close enough to identify without binoculars when it was in the open.

11. Distance to bird: At the closest, this bird was less than 10 meters away.

12. Duration of observation: We watched this bird for about a minute before it disappeared into the brush.

13. Habitat: This bird was in a Russian olive thicket. Several other frugivores (American Robins and a Hermit Thrush) were in the same thicket and presumably all were feeding on the olives, although we didn't actually see them foraging.

14. Behavior: This bird was perched on a branch in a Russian olive tree.

15. Description: This was a medium-sized passerine similar in shape to American Robins, but with a much slimmer build and a longer tail. It had entirely sleek dark gray plumage except for a black cap covering the entire head and bright chestnut undertail coverts. It had a dark bill similar in shape to the robin and thrush.

16. Voice: It was silent.

17. Similar species: Given the excellent look we had at this bird, I can not think of anything we could have confused it with.

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 12/22/12 3:30 PM