

# **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

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

**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