

CBC RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

Submitted as documentation of (check all that apply):

☒ Unusual Species ☒ Unusual Date ☐ Unusual Habitat

1. **MOST IMPORTANT:** On back of form give complete details of this observation. Use additional sheets as needed. Include information on the bird's plumage, shape, size, vocalizations, habitat, behavior, etc. Describe exactly what you saw; include photocopies of your original notes and sketches. Name the species that you considered ID contenders; explain how you eliminated them.

2. Count Name: DIXON Count Code: _____

3. Species Gray Catbird Age Ad Sex # 1

4. Date (s) of Observation 12/15/2012 Time 3:42 to 3:44 pm
Earlier/Later dates by others, if known _____

5. Place 60 yards N. of Rigsby's Bridge on West bank of Rio Grande
Nearest Town Embudo County _____

6. Observer Chris Chappell
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7. Observation Details:

Other Observers Cathy Underwood, Dave Yeaman

Optics Used Nikon Venturer LX 8x42, Swarovski 8x30, Nikon 8x40

Distance From Bird 25 feet Viewing Conditions diffuse sunlight, frontlit

Weather, sky cover Mid-30's, partly cloudy, calm, high thin clouds

Photo Taken? yes Video? no Sound Recording? no Specimen? no

Are these available to the CBC Regional Editor? yes Where are they? Dave Yeaman

8. Past Experience: With this or similar species? All observers have seen species before; myself ~25 times

9. References or Advice Consulted: Sibley Field Guide

10. Was this report done from notes made during or after observation or from memory? notes during observation

Signature Chris Chappell Date 12/16/2012

Observers please give this form to your compiler. Compilers please send all rare bird forms directly to your regional editor. Contact information for regional editors can be found at: <http://birds.audubon.org/programs/cbc/regional-editors> or in the latest CBC issue of American Birds under Regional Summaries. UPLOAD your CBC PHOTOS to the website at http://web1.audubon.org/imagePublic/cbc_form.php and then email them directly to your regional editor.

Any questions e-mail us at: cbcadmin@audubon.org

It also occasionally flicked its wings gently. No vocalizations.
shrubby

The bird was perched ~ 15 feet ~~off~~ above the ground in a ^{shrubby} Russian olive directly adjacent to the river bank. Habitat was tall shrubs at edge of a cottonwood-dominated riparian floodplain 'bosque'. It changed position at least 3 times during our observation, while remaining on the same perch, thus we saw it side-view, rear-view, and front-angle view. At the end of the observation, it flew a short distance down and away from the river and out of sight into more thick vegetation. The bird was smaller and more delicate than a robin and larger than 2 western bluebirds which landed at the top of the same shrub/tree during the observation. Plumage was mostly medium-dark gray with at most virtually no contrast or other markings except for the following.

Distinct black cap not extending down to eyes (supercilium thus same gray as most of plumage and contrasting with black eyes). Dark chestnut undertail coverts. Narrow edges of flight feathers appeared slightly lighter gray than most of wings. Tail appeared dark but not sure whether it was same gray as body or more blackish (as illustrated in Sibley). Bill, eyes, and feet were ^{black to} blackish. Bill was medium-long, thrush-like in overall build, moderately narrow and narrowing gradually toward tip, ~~which~~ ^{very} ~~but~~ The ~~etc~~ culmen had a ^{very} small down-curved tip. Wing tips extended slightly beyond rump. Tail was relatively long and narrow (longer relatively than that of robin or bluebird). Perched posture angled ~~at~~ above horizontal, not upright.

All 3 observers independently recognized the bird as Gray Catbird. Townsend's Solitaire differs in lack of black cap, presence of prominent wingbars and eye ring, as well as different posture and behavior and white outer tail feathers. Black Phoebe is smaller, with white on lower underparts, no black cap, different behavior and posture. Canyon Towhee similar in size and posture but totally different plumage and bill shape.

Nikon Vertuner LX 8x42
 Swarovski 8x30
 Nikon 8x40

photo # 100-7533 thick russian olive riverside
 15' up perched

3:42

mostly cloudy

blk feet blkish bill
 blk eye sm > Robin

blk cap
 - slight curve hook at tip

2 min. observing

distance to bird
 is 25'

Silent
 occ. flick of wings

litter grey ^{edges} flight feath
 med dark grey wing tips sltly
 long, narrow tail beyond rump

sltly rounded
 dark chestnut undertail coverts

compare to: Canyon Towhee
 w/ wht belly; Blk phoebe
 solitaire

Same area
 + time - West bluebirds

9/10
 2:30
 Cathy Underwood

Dave Yeamans - once before

Charged position on sun perch
 and so we saw both side view,
 rear view, front angle view

no wing bars
 cap extending only as far
 as top of supercilium,
 so no lines + supercilium
 same grey as rest of plumage,
 contrasting with black eye
 bill thrush-like, rather
 narrow, medium length, with
 small down-curved tip to upper
 mandible

60 yds N of Riggsby's
 Bridge on W side of Rio
 Grande

No wind, mid 30's
 diff sun light, front of it

